

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 JANUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iraqi Air Force attacked another "large maritime target" in the Gulf on 31 December, scoring "accurate and effective" hits, the Iraqi military command announced in a communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi planes bombed "residential" areas in the Iranian border province of Ilam the following day, wounding seven people, according to IRNA. The raids followed earlier air attacks on the Bostan area of Khuzestan which killed 19 Iranians and injured over 100, the agency said.

Commenting on the Iraqi raids, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Minister Mohsen Rafiq-Dust warned Iraq that its attacks on Iranian residential areas will not go unanswered and that Iran's armed forces are awaiting orders to retaliate, according to IRNA. Meanwhile, Tehran radio's Arabic service stressed that a military solution has become the only way to end the war, adding that Iran has not abandoned its military buildup and that Iraq will be unable to determine the time of the "expected Islamic attack" despite its monitoring equipment and intelligence service. Earlier, in a speech to Iranian military commanders reported by Tehran radio, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned that Iran "really will close" the Strait of Hormuz and throw the world into a crisis. However, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz contended that Iran "cannot do that," asserting that its threat to close the Strait is "meaningless and hollow" because it would be the loser from such a move, according to INA.

Lebanon

Representatives of the Amal movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, and the Lebanese Forces approved and signed the coastal road security plan at a 31 December Military Council meeting and the conferees also agreed to a timetable for its implementation, Beirut radio reported. The agreement provides for the entry of Internal Security Forces into the Al-Kharrub region this week, the withdrawal of gunmen and their heavy weapons from the area, followed by the Lebanese Army's deployment in the Al-Kharrub on 6 or 7 January, according to the radio. The conferees also agreed on a total cease-fire in the Al-Kharrub region starting late on 31 December.

Palestinian Affairs

Speaking at the 31 December funeral in Amman of Fahd Al-Qawasimi, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat blamed Syria for the assassination, asserting that the "Damascus rulers implemented the plot which the Israeli Zionists could not carry out," Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Hani al-Hasan, 'Arafat's political adviser, subsequently claimed that Syria is seeking to "physically liquidate" all the legal PLO leaders, adding that several Palestinian dissident leaders based in Damascus have drawn up a hit list of officials loyal to 'Arafat,

according to AFP. Nevertheless, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf urged the dissidents in Damascus to return to the ranks of the Palestinian revolution under the PLO umbrella, asserting that the PLO will allow "all those who followed the wrong path to return," KUNA reported.

Meanwhile, Damascus radio's Palestine Broadcast viewed Al-Qawasimi's assassination as an "alarm" about the great dangers that will threaten Palestinian action unless "practical formulas" are found to obstruct "hostile forces" from achieving their objectives and to prevent further intra-Palestinian fighting. While disclaiming any knowledge of which quarter was responsible for the assassination, the radio blamed 'Arafat and his colleagues for allowing "conspiratorial forces" to turn Palestinians against each other.

'As for the appeal by Al-Qawasimi's family that he be buried in Hebron, Israel answered that it would be prepared to allow this if four IDF soldiers missing from the Lebanon war were located and returned, according to Jerusalem radio. A message to this effect was transmitted to the Jordanian Government through the Al-Qawasimi family members who left for Jordan on 30 December, but the subsequent funeral in Amman indicates that the proposal was rejected, the radio said. A procession mourning Al-Qawasimi clashed with Israeli security forces in Hebron on 1 January, the radio reported, and a bomb exploded in Jerusalem the same day, the 20th anniversary of the founding of the PLO.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan's King Husayn arrived in Riyadh on 1 January and was welcomed by King Fahd and other Saudi leaders, Riyadh radio reported. In their first round of talks, the two monarchs discussed the current Arab situation and bilateral relations, Amman television noted.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Libya's Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud in Damascus the same day, according to Damascus radio. Jallud conveyed a message from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi and Al-Asad asked the Libyan visitor to convey a reply message.

Sudan

During a visit to the southern town of Juba on 31 December, President Ja'far Numayri called on Ethiopia and other neighboring states to hold consultations to facilitate the repatriation of the "tens of thousands" of refugees who have entered Sudan, SUNA reported. He also urged southerners to participate in a "comprehensive democratic dialogue," directing this appeal especially at those who seek to "impose opinion by force." Numayri acknowledged that corruption and nepotism are prevalent in the administration of the southern region and told local officials to immediately tackle these problems.

However, a commentary by the clandestine radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) stressed that there can be no dialogue between the SPLA and Numayri "until his corrupt and oppressive regime is eliminated."

As for the military situation in the south, the Sudanese military command announced that government troops killed 25 "outlaws" during a 29 December clash in an area near the Ethiopian border, according to SUNA.

Egypt

Coptic Pope — President Husni Mubarak issued a decree allowing Pope Shinudah to resume his official duties as of 1 January, Cairo radio announced.

Relations With Bulgaria — Egypt and Bulgaria have fully restored their diplomatic relations, Sofia radio reported on 31 December.

Libya

The Armed Forces commander in chief "issued a decision concerning the implementation" of the draft bill on military training

approved by the Basic People's Congresses in 1984, Tripoli radio reported. The draft bill stipulates that every Libyan male or female capable of performing military training should do so.

Western Sahara

Polisario forces killed or injured over 100 Moroccan troops in further attacks on Moroccan defensive positions between 22 and 28 December, Algiers radio reported.

Pakistan-Afghanistan

A message from the DRA Foreign Ministry to the Pakistani authorities denied the latter's "completely untrue and ill-intentioned" allegation that Afghan aircraft bombed Pakistani territory on 25 December, BAKHTAR reported. A later message to the Pakistani authorities threatened "reciprocal action," according to BAKHTAR. In Islamabad, a Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman cited by Karachi radio denied press reports that a Pakistani aircraft was recently forced to land at an airport in Afghanistan, stressing that the Pakistani Air Force has scrupulously avoided violating the DRA's airspace.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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Further Reportage on Al-Qawasimi Assassination**Al-Qawasimi Buried in Amman 31 Dec**

*JN311318 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Excerpt] The one Jordanian family participated in the funeral procession to 'Umm al-Hiran cemetery today of Martyr Struggler Engineer Fahd al-Qawasimi, member of the PLO Executive Committee and deported Hebron mayor, who was assassinated by treachery and treason in Amman the day before yesterday.

Chief Chamberlain His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd deputized for His Majesty King Husayn at the funeral and in extending condolences. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat also participated in the funeral procession. Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat; Senate President Ahmad al-Sawzi; House of Representatives Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; ministers; members of the House of Representatives; Senate members; senior government and military officials; Christian and Muslim scholars; presidents of the Jordanian universities; heads of professional trade unions; representatives from the popular and official sectors in the Kingdom; delegations from citizens in the occupied Arab territories; and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Amman took part in the funeral procession and in extending condolences.

Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, PNC speaker; deputies of the PNC speaker; a number of PLO Executive Committee members; Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces; and Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad] and Hani al-Hasan, members of the Fatah Central Committee, also took part in the funeral procession and in extending their condolences.

'Arafat Delivers Eulogy

*JN311810 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] made a speech at the funeral of Martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi in Amman today. Abu 'Ammar said:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but his light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verse] Brother Abu Khalid [Fahd al-Qawasimi], you have fought and been martyred for the sake of Palestine. When the Zionists in our occupied land wanted to assassinate you and failed, they deported you from Hebron, Jerusalem, and Palestine. However, the Zionist Arabs, represented by the Damascus rulers, [sentence incomplete].

Here, the crowd shouted: Al-Asad is a coward.

Abu 'Ammar continued: But the Damascus rulers implemented the plot which the Israeli Zionists could not carry out. I tell them: You cannot stop the march of this revolution. Abu Khalid has fallen, but every Palestinian and every honorable Arab is Abu Khalid.

Brothers: These Zionists think that they can stop the march of the revolution or the Arab nation's march. But I tell them in the name of Abu Khalid and all our martyrs that this land will reject traitors in our ranks. This march will not stop. Since we left Beirut, the daggers have been in our backs. Those who implement the U.S. policy in our region think that with their poisoned daggers they stab the backs of the honorable ones and can stop the march. You and I now tell them: The march will not stop.

My brothers, history repeats itself. During the time of the crusades, Salah al-Din's enemies, who were called Al-Hashhashin [assassins], moved to stop Salah al-Din's march. Now, they themselves are moving from the same area in order to repeat the tragedy. However, the march will not stop until Khalid, 'Umar, Mu'ammarr [Fahd al-Qawasimi's sons] and all the cubs of this nation raise the flag of this revolution over Jerusalem, Hebron, and the entire Palestinian territory. It is a revolution until victory.

'Arafat Receives Egyptian Condolences

*JN010933 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
1 Jan 85 p 1*

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received a message from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid yesterday. Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Ihab Wahbah delivered the message when he offered condolences on the death of Martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi. He also conveyed a message of condolences to the deceased's family.

PFLP Condemns Assassination

LD301621 Kuwait KUNA in English 1531 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus, Dec 30 [KUNA] — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] denounced here Sunday the assassination of PLO Executive Committee member Fahd al-Qawasimi in Amman yesterday. The front, led by Secretary General George Habash, said in a statement that it is unequivocally against assassination in principle, and said such acts would only deepen the current fragmented situation and push the Palestinian arena into infighting and political assassination, the only beneficiaries of which are the enemies of the Palestinian people.

The PFLP stressed that although it has a clear attitude toward the holding of the PNC in Amman and its political and organizational results, yet "we condemn and denounce that criminal act which would lead to more complications and division on the Palestinian arena." Al-Qawasimi was elected to the PLO Executive Committee member at the Amman PNC meetings held in November.

Palestine Liberation Front Denounces Assassination

*JN312108 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Excerpts] The Palestine Liberation Front has strongly condemned the assassination of Martyr Struggler Fahd al-

Qawasimi. In a statement yesterday, the front said that this abominable crime has occurred amid circumstances in which efforts and endeavors are being exerted to override differences and to begin the comprehensive national Palestinian dialogue. The statement added that this criminal act comes at a time when imperialism and Zionism are working to exploit the division and the difficult situation through which the PLO is passing. This is meant to strike at the PLO to pave the way for liquidating the entire Palestinian question.

The front called on the nationalist forces to firmly condemn this crime and to stand against this destructive method that gravely harms the Palestinian question.

PLO Official Blames 'Black September'

JN021024 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Jan 85 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman — A senior PLO official said Wednesday that "Black September", the group which claimed responsibility for the assassination of PLO Executive Committee member Fahd al-Qawasimi, is "directed by the Syrian Air Force Intelligence Department."

The official, who asked not to be named, told the JORDAN TIMES that according to PLO findings "Brigadier Muhammad al-Khuli, head of the Syrian Air Force Intelligence Department, is the mastermind behind what is called 'Black September'."

International news agencies and Kuwaiti newspapers reported Sunday that they received anonymous calls from Rome from a group calling itself "Black September" which claimed responsibility for assassinating Mr al-Qawasimi outside his house in Amman last Saturday.

The PLO official said that Brig al-Khuli is a senior adviser to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and "one of Al-Asad's closest aids." He said that the Syrian Air Force Intelligence Department "is also the guardian of the Abu Nidal group which had murdered many PLO officials in the past." The official was referring to a group, which had split from the mainstream Fatah faction, and headed by Hasan al-Banna, better known as Abu Nidal. Abu Nidal was reported dead two months ago but Libya, which also supports the group, later denied the reports and claimed that Abu Nidal was received by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi. The PLO official in Amman did not clarify whether the "Black September" group is a new one or is just an extension of the Abu Nidal group.

Meanwhile in Amman, Jordan and the PLO have increased the number of security men who escort PLO officials amidst reports that Syria has dispatched assassins to eliminate a list of top PLO officials.

Mr al-Qawasimi, like most independent PLO officials, did not have any bodyguards. But since his assassination the five PLO Executive Committee members living in Amman have been observed moving around with a number of armed Palestinian and Jordanian security men.

According to well-informed Palestinian sources the Syrian "hit-list" is believed to include all members of the PLO Executive Committee members, particularly the newly elected ones, along with a number of senior Fatah officials.

Newly elected PNC Speaker 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, who replaced the pro-Syrian Khalid al-Fahum last November, has also been provided with Palestinian and Jordanian security officers to escort him.

In an interview with the state-run Syrian television on the eve of Mr al-Qawasimi's assassination, Mr al-Fahum strongly attacked Mr al-Qawasimi, Mr al-Sa'ih and PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim. Palestinian sources, however, dismissed any possibility that Mr al-Fahum would be directly involved in any assassination plots but questioned the timing of telecasting the interview on Syrian television.

They added that assassins were actually sent to Bangkok last week in an attempt to murder Mr Milhim and PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad. Both Mr Milhim and Mr Ahmad, who leads the Arab Liberation Front, were expected to make a stopover in Bangkok on their way back from China. The two leaders, however, were warned by the PLO leadership and changed their route. They returned to Amman Monday and participated in Mr al-Qawasimi's funeral.

RFL Reports 'Arafat Warning to Junblatt'

NC011506 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign journalists have quoted PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as warning Minister Walid Junblatt against attempting to assassinate him. The journalists also cite 'Arafat as saying: I warn him against such a thing just as I warned his father only 1 month before he was assassinated. 'Arafat warned the Shi'ites in Lebanon that they will be the object of the plot as others were before them. He said work for the establishment of cantons is still going on. 'Arafat said: The future will prove that we are returning to Beirut and when we do, the confrontation will be between us and the Syrians. The coming 2 months will be crucial as far as Lebanon is concerned.

'Arafat's Address on Revolution Anniversary'

JN012043 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1550 GMT 1 Jan 85

["Text" of message by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified here by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, on the 20th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution; date not given — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but his light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verse]

My beloved brothers, sons of our Palestinian Arab people, comrades in arms, fighter revolutionaries, masses of our glorious

Arab nation, honest free men in the world: With God's blessing, the determination of the people and the nation, the will of revolutionaries and free men, the blood of the martyrs, and the deep loyalty to the homeland, our armed Palestinian revolution enters its 21st year with confident steps and strong faith and determination to achieve the great national objective for which it began in 1965 and on whose path it offered many martyrs and wounded and thousands of prisoners and detainees.

My beloved brothers, sons of our Palestinian Arab people, masses of our glorious Arab nation: We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of our revolution only a few days after the conclusion of the 17th PNC session in Amman which was called the martyrs session. This name was not picked at random; we chose to call it that because it embodied the most precise meanings of the battle to convene the PNC — the battle whose difficult and complicated chapters were followed by the Palestinian masses for more than 1 and 1/2 years. It was a period that was full of major events and challenges. But the most violent of these events was the battle of the Palestinian existence on the region's political map.

This confrontation was embodied in the battle of independent Palestinian decisionmaking which was fought in the heroic Lebanese city of Tripoli and the Palestinian camps surrounding that city. This battle reached its tragic peak in Arab history when a double siege was imposed on that city and its camps — a siege by certain Arabs.

In as much as this tragedy left bitter feeling in the hearts of millions of Palestinians and Arabs and in the conscience of friends and allies in the world at large, the steadfastness of the Palestinians and their Lebanese allies was strong and stubborn and brave in its decision and struggle. It stemmed from a deep national revolutionary awareness of the dimensions and objectives of that plot which was planned to be a continuation of the greater plot we have faced since the Israeli invasion on 4 June 1982 through the unprecedented epic of heroism which we recorded by confronting the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. This reached its peak in the glorious Beirut battle and subsequent events and attacks that were forcibly imposed on our people, such as the plot which was sometimes called dissension and sometimes mutiny. That plot was planned, implemented, and magnified by foreign hands that are no longer secret to anyone. Those foreign hands sought one main objective: to liquidate the PLO and remove it from the conflict arena prior to eliminating the Palestinian factor and the Palestinian people's cause by trying to crush their military forces, national institutions, and independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

O masses of our glorious Arab nation. The 17th PNC session was the martyrs' session. The day on which the session was convened, 22 November 1984, was the day on which the curtain was drawn on the U.S.-Israeli conspiracy against the Palestinian people and their revolution in which some Arab sides were involved and which began on 4 June 1982 when Reagan issued his orders to Begin and Sharon to begin this serious offensive. Reagan placed all U.S. resources at their disposal in order to implement the plot. The agents continued implementing their tasks after the evacuation from Beirut when Sharon was unable to implement his promises to liquidate the PLO. Our brothers stabbed us instead of nursing our wounds sustained from the longest Arab-Israeli

confrontation, whether in Beirut or in the successful war of attrition launched by the Lebanese-Palestinian resistance war in southern Lebanon.

During the 17th PNC session in Amman, the Palestinian people's representatives were given the opportunity to exercise their legitimate rights in discussing all issues related to our people, cause, and revolution in a sound, democratic atmosphere which we were careful to provide in all our national councils. The broadest sectors from the Palestinian, Arab, and world masses were able to follow up the work of this session. Our Palestinian people have the right to be proud of their advanced cultural level which was truly manifested by responsibly exercising democracy which we are proud to maintain amid this forest of revolutionary rifles.

We are proud of the fact that this democracy will always remain a guarantee of our revolution's continuity and for its protection, as well as for the protection of our unity and free decisionmaking. It will remain a symbol of our ability to face the fascist, local, and racist Zionist [as heard] challenges, and an indication that we are advancing toward our great national aim with confidence, strength, and conviction.

However, it is my duty toward my Palestinian people and Arab nation and from my position at my brothers' side in the leadership of the Palestinian march that I must be frank in my dealings in the present and future phases, which we have resolved to face regardless of the difficulties and challenges that affect not only our Palestinian position but the entire Arab nation.

While it is true that the PNC session constituted a landmark in our march of struggle; our success in holding it led to averting the paralysis and dissipation which had been threatening us; it proved our identity; it protected our independent national decisionmaking against the plots of confiscation, circumvention, or liquidation; and it restored life, activity, and efficiency to our bodies and institutions, this does not mean that the U.S.-Zionist plot has ended, or that the plotters and their agents have laid down their arms and stopped their grinding war against our people, cause, and revolution. This is because our fate, which we have lived and willingly accepted, is to continue fighting and suffering, a guarantee of the revolution's survival and a means of escalating its action and achievements.

Out of our profound understanding of this fact and historic inevitability, and out of our long experience, our conviction is corroborated by the fact that our survival and strength stem from bolstering our capabilities and resources inherent in the consciences of millions of Palestinians and Arabs who created the noblest phenomenon in the contemporary history of the Arab nation on 1 January 1965 — namely, the phenomenon of armed struggle, which restored to the Palestinian people their identity, created this great revolutionary asset in the history of the Arab nation, and regained the important position of the Palestinian issue among the political issues of the contemporary world.

Blessed is this generation, the generation of the revolution, which is experiencing suffering and writing history in light and fire on the road of fighting, on the path of Palestine, of Holy Jerusalem, with God's help.

The course of armed struggle, the course of the just revolutionary rifle whose strong foundations were laid on the day we began this glorious revolution and which we and our masses pursued and sacrificed for its sake our dearest martyr sons, brothers and commanders in its flaming furnace, has been and will remain the main course and option which will not abandon or fail to carry out and protect the means of its continuation and escalation. What reinforces our conviction in this course are the creative and splendid deeds of our revolutionaries inside the occupied territories since the beginning of the revolution until the present time, and the heroic epics of the Palestinian revolutionaries in all arenas of confrontation.

Referring to the Zionists' report on operations carried out by the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance in southern Lebanon, the Zionists admitted that our Palestinian and Lebanese heroes carried out 992 operations in addition to 350 operations carried out by our revolutionaries in occupied Palestine against the Zionist enemy and its sophisticated U.S. military machine. This is in accordance with the Zionist military report that was announced at the end of the year. It suffices us to say that our armed Palestinian revolution is the only Arab military force which has not lost combat contact with the enemy throughout the past 20 years, and that the convoys of martyrs nor did the bloodshed stop in this long march. We realize the size of the difficulties placed in the path of our armed struggle. Massacres were perpetrated, our revolutionaries were chased everywhere, and boundaries and dams were built in front of the Palestinian rifle in an attempt to make us abandon it and relinquish its correct path.

Out of our understanding of our difficulties and since this is our national revolutionary option, we will continue action on the basis that the objective of these rifles is to liberate the land. This political objective ignites the spark of continuous hope in the arteries of the revolution. Thus, the revolution of the rifle embracing the olive branch imposed this hope in the land of peace, Palestine, in order to remove all obstacles and difficulties.

Hence, we would act on all levels and in all directions while confronting the enemy with its potentials and those of its allies. We should also act in our Arab arena despite the bad Arab situation in order to create a healthy atmosphere that will rejuvenate the revolution and the Arab masses with an opportunity to achieve their ambitions by Arab efforts in which all our nation's material, political, military, financial, and human potentials are exploited. The Arab efforts will remove the darkness imposed on our great Arab nation. We firmly believe in the principle of the survival of the fittest. In order to achieve our just objective we must pool our strong points. Our Arab nation must understand that a just peace is based on balances of material and military power. The nation that abandons its military option in the face of difficult challenges will not survive. Otherwise, peace will become capitulation, and we will not accept this.

Brothers: The position of our revolution and cause in our broad Arab environment and in the broader world arena necessitates that we examine our situation closely and act accordingly. We have a great cause which has a place in the heart and life of the Arab nation. This cause's interactions and influences affect the whole world. It is no longer a secret that our Arab nation is

regrettably experiencing a stage of horrendous fragmentation which lacks even a minimum degree of solidarity, coordination, and joint action. This deteriorating situation provides the right atmosphere for all the U.S.-Zionist schemes that seek to impose control on our region and to create a situation whereby the Zionist enemy would gain the upper hand and reach liquidatory solutions in order to achieve its expansionist ambitions at the expense of the rights of our Palestinian people and Arab nation. It has become clear to everyone that the adventurous U.S. policy in the region which depends directly on the Zionist military force and the suspect connivance of some Arab sides, seeks to isolate the Arab forces, fragment their ranks, ignite wars of exhaustion in our Arab world on the regional and factional levels, and create controversial issues in order to divert attention from the great pan-Arab cause, the Palestine question.

Within this framework, we can understand the objective behind the Camp David conspiracy which aimed at excluding Egypt from the arena, the objective of what is taking place in Arab Lebanon in terms of plots of factional partitioning. We can also understand the seriousness of continuing the Iraq-Iran war, its consequences and conflagration. All this is directly connected to the Arab-Zionist conflict whose crux is the Palestine question. In this dangerous atmosphere, the Zionists invaded Lebanon in 1982, and a plot was forged to deal a blow to the Palestinian revolution and expel its forces from Lebanon leaving it a victim for suspect deals and to pave the way for a hateful factional balkanization plot to be imposed on the entire Arab region and its one people. Within this framework, the U.S. Administration is throwing its nets in the form of ideas and peace initiatives, while the real objective is consolidating the results of the aggression which caused a disastrous situation that contravenes the basic rights and legitimate hopes of the peoples of this area. It was no coincidence that U.S. President Ronald Reagan presented his dangerous initiative while our forces were leaving Beirut. It is also no coincidence that the U.S. Administration is trying through its envoy Richard Murphy to peddle a new deal in Lebanon that is no less dangerous than the Camp David accords. The Americans are trying, with the consent of Arab sides, to force the Lebanese people into accepting the Al-Naqurah talks despite the fact that they include two anti-PLO articles. These two articles call for preventing the PLO fighters from returning to southern Lebanon, and protecting the Zionist enemy's northern borders from the Palestinian fedayeen.

In light of this situation we shouldered the burdens of the Lebanese war alone with our Lebanese allies, and paid the price with tens of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese martyrs and casualties, and hundreds of thousands of evacuees in southern Lebanon, Beirut, Al-Biq'a', and Tripoli — in light of this situation whose results are still affecting the great Arab homeland, we have realized that we are dutybound to sound the alarm for the Arab nation and play our historic role in the Arab world, taking into consideration a lofty pan-Arab objective, namely redressing the balance in our Arab region, and working in accordance with a seriously studied policy that would provide a healthy atmosphere to form Arab solidarity devoid of axes and the currents of narrow polarization — an atmosphere that is based on mobilizing all Arab potentials in the service of the objective of liberating Arab land in Palestine, the Golan Heights, Lebanon, and what remains of Sinai, and achieving the Palestinian people's national

right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

Within this context we are continuing our dialogue with our brothers in Jordan with a positive spirit, open heart, and mutual respect as dictated by the fraternal relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. History has given this relationship a strong depth in which we take pride. Joint suffering has also enriched it with the factors of growth and cohesion. The joint feeling of responsibility toward rescuing the kinfolk in the occupied homeland has further strengthened and entrenched it in a manner that made us consciously and sincerely believe that it is a distinguished relationship that possesses objective elements for a coordinated and well-studied move constituting an important stone in the Arab edifice. Therefore, our concentration was basically aimed in this direction at our PNC sessions in Algiers and Amman.

We sensed from our continuous dialogue with Jordan and from the royal speech at the PNC in Amman, a sincere desire on the side of our brothers in Jordan for close cooperation to confront the serious and fateful challenges facing us inside and outside our occupied territory. Therefore, our PNC has decided that our Executive Committee should continue dialogue and interaction with our brothers in Jordan and in the Arab countries, seeking with determination serious and responsible work, thus proceeding from the Arab peace plan which the Arabs have unanimously agreed on as an approach for a responsible dialogue that is sure to reach a suitable formula leading to the achievement of the joint pan-Arab objective.

From my position in the revolution command and according to my assessment of the international situation and its facts I can say with confidence that our international position on the level of the revolution and cause has become stronger and more consolidated than before in a manner that calls for pride in our people and revolutionaries. We greet and thank the Arab countries which are hosting our forces. We also extend our greetings and appreciation for our Arab brothers who are backing our people's just struggle and who are sharing with us our struggle, destiny, hope, and future.

We also take pride in our position in the Islamic group of states, the Nonaligned Movement, the African states, the PRC, the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union, and other friendly countries. We are proud of our relations with them and of the support they are extending to us. We are also proud of this continuous militant relationship with all struggling forces and peoples — a relationship which has continued to grow despite the difficulties that we faced in the past. We are determined to develop and bolster this relationship.

We declare our firm and strong support for the revolutionaries in Namibia and South Africa and for all the free and honorable people in Latin America, the Caribbean region, and Asia. We are with them in their struggle against fascism, racism, Zionism, and colonialism from the same trench of joint struggle.

Finally, we extend greetings of pride, love, and brotherhood to our steadfast kinfolk inside the occupied territory and elsewhere in the diaspora. I greet every man and woman, every child and

youth and tell them that a pledge is a pledge and an oath is an oath. We all have a date to meet in Holy Jerusalem where one of my country's children and one of Palestine's cubs will hoist the revolution's flag high on Jerusalem's walls, mosques, and churches.

KUNA: Fatah's Khalaf Urges Dissidents' Return to PLO *LD011908 Kuwait KUNA in English 1824 GMT 1 Jan 85*

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 1 (KUNA) — A senior official of Fatah Tuesday called on the Damascus-based National Alliance opposed to the PLO leadership to return to the ranks of the Palestinian revolution under the PLO umbrella. Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf also criticized some parties of the Democratic Alliance for what he described as "complying with the wishes of certain Arab regimes."

The Palestinian National and Democratic Alliances, four groups each, are opposed to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, with the National Alliance demanding his ouster. The Democratic Alliance, however, has accepted "dialogue" with Fatah, the largest component of the PLO.

"We open our hearts for all those who followed the wrong path to return", Khalaf said, adding that those who lash out at 'Arafat were "paying bills for Arab regimes". Khalaf said Fatah advocates the independence of the Palestinian decisionmaking, adding that the Palestinian revolution, which was launched for the liberation of Palestine, would not compromise "nor would it allow any party to make it veer off course". Khalaf, who was addressing a rally marking the 20th anniversary of Fatah said that politics go hand in hand with all forms of armed struggle.

Khalaf underlined the gratitude of the Palestinian people and revolution to Kuwait for public and official support. Kuwait is the country where the Palestinian revolution grew, he said, noting that Kuwait has always supported the revolution silently.

AFP: PLO To Maintain Stance on Resolution 242 *NC011447 Paris AFP in English 1430 GMT 1 Jan 85*

[Text] Amman, Jan 1 (AFP) — The PLO will continue to reject U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which King Husayn of Jordan has proposed as a basis for peace negotiations, the political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said today.

Hani al-Hasan, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in an interview that the PLO would not accept the resolution because it reduces the Palestinian question to a mere refugee problem. The resolution demands Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories but guarantees the territorial inviolability and political independence of every state in the area, which the PLO sees as a recognition of Israel. It also states a commitment to a just settlement of the refugee problem.

Last week the PLO Executive Committee formed a special committee to continue discussion of King Husayn's proposals, presented last November at a session in Amman at the PNC, or

parliament-in-exile. King Husayn called on the PLO to accept Resolution 242 and work with Jordan on a common strategy within the context of an international peace conference.

Mr al-Hasan added that the PLO would give its detailed response to King Husayn's proposals next week. He said the PLO and Jordan had decided on joint action to thwart Israel's strategy, which he said was calculated to push Lebanon into a sectarian war, so that Israel would not be forced to comply with the international resolutions requiring it to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said that according to information received by the PLO, Syria was determined to "physically liquidate" all the legal PLO leaders. He went on to say two dissident PLO leaders had sworn to assassinate PLO officials loyal to Yasir 'Arafat within the next three months. The dissidents, he said, are Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the pro-Syrian breakaway from PFLP; and 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim, head of a splinter faction of the Palestine Liberation Front.

According to Mr al-Hasan the two made their commitment to the Syrian authorities in the presence of Khalid al-Fahum, former chairman of the PNC who was removed from that office at the meeting in November.

Fahd al-Qawasimah, the PLO moderate assassinated in Amman on Saturday, was on their hit list, he asserted. The Palestinian terrorist organization Black September claimed responsibility for the killing in a telephone call to AFP in Paris.

Sa'id Musa Addresses Rally in Al-Biqa' 31 Dec

*JN312125 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] The Palestine National Liberation Movement — Fatah — organized a rally in Ta'nayil in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' region this

evening on the 20th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. A number of representatives from the Palestinian groups, the Lebanese nationalist movement, and a large crowd of Palestinian and Lebanese people participated in the rally. Banners saluted the Palestinian revolution and Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese solidarity. The slogans denounced the treasonous line of 'Arafat and his rightist gang and condemned Amman's divisionist PNC.

At the end of the rally, Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], member of the Fatah provisional leadership and official in charge of central operations, made a speech in which he denounced the reactionary 'Arafatist deviation, which has become part of the imperialist-Zionist plot against the Palestinian people's cause. Abu Musa hailed Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese solidarity which cancelled the 17 May agreement. Abu Musa concluded his speech by pledging to continue on the path of the revolution and armed struggle until the entire Palestinian national soil is liberated.

In a message that he addressed to the brother fighters from the Palestinian revolution and to Al-'Asifah revolutionaries, Abu Musa asserted that the people's war is the unchanging strategy and the effective means of liberating both the Arab land and man from all sorts of oppression, repression, domination, backwardness, and division on the path of winning independence and unity. In his message, Abu Musa said: When the executive leadership of the PLO decided to deviate, exposing circumstances of its surrender, the Fatah fighting cadres faced it with revolutionary violence in order to preserve the Palestinian revolution's principles of strategy in both the regional and pan-Arab dimensions.

Abu Musa called for abandoning the circle of hesitation and waiting, and to courageously proceed and take the initiative, prevent the PLO from falling into the grasp of the deviationists, and to restore its national role, something which requires the emergence of a new leadership of national action, now that 'Arafat and his companions have abandoned the aims of the national struggle.

Nigerian Oil Minister Explains Decision on Differentials
LD021213 Vienna OPECNA in English 1100 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Text] Geneva, 2 Jan 85 (OPECNA) — Nigeria's exception to the OPEC decision last week on differentials is not to be taken as evidence of non-cooperation with the organization, Prof Tam David-West, minister of petroleum and energy, told OPECNA here after the 72d conference.

"Only the head of state, in consultation with, or in an emergency on behalf of the Supreme Military Council which he chairs, can give a final ruling on an issue, such as a change in prices of Nigerian crudes," David-West explained.

The minister added that in the present situation, it was "even more mandatory" for him to get a final ruling on the issue of differentials "because of the price structure which Nigeria has been operating" since October 1984.

He recalled that Nigeria had to evolve that structure not because of non-cooperation, but in order to deal with the action of competitors outside OPEC. "The prices announced last October had the final ruling of the head of state and any change in that structure also had to be referred to him," David-West said.

The minister declared that even if the issue of differentials had been completely resolved in Geneva, the Nigerian delegation would still have had to take the final figures home for a ruling. "My colleagues in OPEC were told this and I had no objections from them."

"My head of state is an oil man and I have good reason to believe he will take decisions to benefit both Nigeria and OPEC," he said.

He stated that Nigeria would fully participate in both the Ministerial Executive Committee of Internal Auditing and the Differentials Committee.

David-West said the oil market reaction to OPEC's decision last week had been "modestly positive." He said OPEC had left Geneva with greater confidence than it had been after the

October 1984 meeting, though there were "ends to be tied up." He felt that the current confidence could increase with time, depending on how OPEC got the new auditing machinery into motion. He said: "Nigeria approaches the oil market situation in the new year in buoyant optimism for itself and OPEC," adding: "My optimism has increased in spite of all the spanners which OPEC opponents threw in." "OPEC has remained united, ending the year 1984 in miraculous coherence," he observed.

He described OPEC as an organization which, in spite of occasional differences among its members, could always come to commonly acceptable decisions in the end. "OPEC has survived tremendous assaults. Consumers should take the lesson that OPEC has the unity and the ability to arrest the worst situation," David-West emphasized.

KUNA: OAPEC Head Criticizes Non-Opec Oil Producers
LD011128 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0959 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Kuwait 1 Jan (KUNA) — The OAPEC secretary-general, Dr 'Ali Ahmad Utayqah, said today that the production and price monitoring body which was formed by the OPEC during its past meetings consolidates the power of the organization and does not weaken it. In an exclusive interview with KUNA, Dr 'Ali Utayqah said that monitoring and following-up are natural procedures, not a retreat.

As for the non-OPEC countries, Dr Utayqah said: "Unfortunately, these countries did not do anything to help OPEC. On the contrary, these industrial countries, especially Britain and Norway and also the Soviet Union, are increasing their production and sales at a time when the demand for the OPEC oil is diminishing." He explained that this means one of two things: "Either they are selling for lower prices, and therefore are able to find buyers, or the buyers are adopting a discriminatory policy, preferring to buy from these countries rather than from OPEC countries, or both factors together. There is no explanation of the fact that they were able to increase their share of production by 400,000 barrels per day between last September and today, while the OPEC production is shrinking."

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Receives Message From Iran's Velayati *LD021038 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0954 GMT 2 Jan 85*

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Jan (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and information minister of Kuwait, today received a message from the Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The message, which was delivered by the charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait, Mohammed Beza Baqeri, concerns relations between the two countries.

AL-QABAS Reports Formation of Secret U.S. Army *GF312000 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 31 Dec 84 p 23*

["Exclusive" report from Washington]

[Text] *AL-QABAS* has learned that President Reagan's administration is building up a new secret army of select units from all branches of the Armed Forces to carry out certain operations including fighting anti-U.S. organizations in the Middle East. Democratic Congressman Edward Boland, in his capacity as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, has sent a secret letter to the White House and the Pentagon inquiring about this army which is scheduled to include 20,000 men in the near future.

A special command for this army was formed at the Pentagon several months ago known as the Special Joint Operations Center under the supervision of Noel Koch, deputy assistant secretary for African Affairs at the Defense Department.

AL-QABAS has learned that there will soon be joint exercises between some of the units of this secret army and special units from the IDF. Informed sources say that the command center for the army includes 100 senior officers and that the concept of expanding the anti-terrorist security organ was actually formulated last January. The activity of the special operations center was modest at the beginning when it was headed by Major General (Wesley Rice) of the Marines Corps. But last August Noel Koch took over the center and began to develop the program very quickly. He started to double the Navy commando "Seal" force whose headquarters is at Scott Air Force base in southern Illinois.

The Pentagon is also activating the Marines "Select Scouting Forces." There are currently fund allotments to supply all the units of the secret army with modern and sophisticated equipment, including almost-silent helicopters, bullet-proof uniforms, night vision equipment, and other ordnance. It is worth mentioning that the intelligence committee had earlier allotted funds for units other than this new idea which was developed at the Pentagon.

There are intensive contacts between Noel Koch and the Israeli representative to the United Nations, Yehuda Blum, who considers himself an expert on international terrorism. There are also contacts between the center and the military attache at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

MENA: Commercial Delegation Arrives for Talks *NC291652 Cairo MENA in English 1633 GMT 29 Dec 84*

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 29 (MENA) — An Egyptian commercial delegation started here today consultations to gauge requirements of the Kuwaiti market of Egyptian commodities and products. Contacts were made with 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Saqr, head of the Kuwaiti chamber of commerce, on developing trade relations between the two countries. The delegation arrived here yesterday on a week long visit which included so far the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The delegation will also visit Iraq and Jordan.

QATAR

Amir Receives Message From Somali President *GF311410 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Dec 84*

[Text] Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, has received a written message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre, dealing with bilateral relations and the situation in the Horn of Africa. The message was delivered by Mohamed Mahmud Jawad, the Somali ambassador to Qatar, during his meeting with the amir in his office at Al-Dawhah Palace today.

SAUDI ARABIA

Jordan's Husayn Arrives, Welcomed by King Fahd *LD011149 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Jan 85*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan arrived in Riyadh at 1400 today on a visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed on arrival by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Badr ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the amir of the Riyadh region; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal; a number of ministers and senior civilian and military officials.

Talks Held 1 Jan

JN012130 Amman Television Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Their Majesties King Husayn and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz held a meeting at the guest palace in Riyadh this evening. They exchanged viewpoints on the current Arab situation in light of the recent developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas.

The two monarchs discussed the challenge facing the Arab nation and ways of confronting it through revitalizing comprehensive Arab solidarity in accordance with firm bases aimed at achieving higher Arab interests. They also discussed bilateral

relations and cooperation between the two friendly countries. The talks are still going on.

Husayn Departs 2 Jan

NC021318 Paris AFP in English 1309 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 2 (AFP) — King Husayn of Jordan left here today after a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia during which he had "very important" talks with King Fahd which included the Gulf war and the new relationship between Jordan and the PLO, Jordanian diplomats said.

Before leaving, the King had a last round of talks with Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy premier and minister of defence and aviation.

The summit with King Fahd took place last night after a working dinner. The two monarchs discussed the Iran-Iraq war, now in its fifth year, the general Middle East situation and the planned cooperation of Jordan and the PLO in promoting an international conference on the Middle East at which the PLO would enjoy full participation. King Husayn came out in favour of such a conference, already suggested by Moscow, but rejected by Israel and the United States, at a controversial session of the PNC (the Palestinian parliament in exile) in Amman in November.

This week's Jordanian-Saudi summit was the first since Jordan unilaterally restored diplomatic links with Egypt last September — a decision which the Saudi Government said should have been made in conjunction with other Arab nations. Seventeen Arab countries and the PLO broke off relations with Egypt in 1979 following the signing of an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

King Husayn's visit to Saudi Arabia was the first stop in a Gulf tour which will also include visits to Kuwait and Iraq.

YAR Minister Delivers Message to King Fahd

LD312210 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2037 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Dec (SPA) — Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Riyadh tonight at the end of visit to the Kingdom, during which he conveyed a message to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from his brother His Excellency President 'Ali Abdallah Salih of the YAR. He was seen off by Foreign Ministry Protocol Department Chief Ambassador Issa al-Nuwaysir, YAR Ambassador to the Kingdom Ahmad al-Muhanni, and a number of officials.

Mas'ud Comments on Visit

LD012103 Riyadh SPA in English 1928 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 1, SPA — Pakistani Oil and Natural Resources Minister Mohammad Assad Khan left here today for Zahran in the framework of his current visit to Saudi Arabia. He was seen off by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and acting oil and mineral resources minister, and senior officials.

For his part, Mas'ud told SPA that the Pakistani minister's talks with Prince Sultan, second deputy premier and defence and aviation minister, covered bilateral relations and Pakistan's efforts at the Islamic level. Mas'ud said his talks with Khan dealt with cooperation in various fields and issues of common interest to the Islamic world and Pakistan's stand toward it. "We have also discussed the existing cooperation between the two countries and the Kingdom's support to Pakistan," he said. Mas'ud added that Saudi Arabia expressed its readiness to provide any aid in the field of oil exploration underway in Pakistan.

The Saudi minister of state expressed hope that constructive cooperation between the two countries in various fields. [sentence as received]

Mas'ud said the Pakistani minister appreciated HM King Fahd's government support for the Afghan mujahidin, who had been given shelter in Pakistan and affirmed that the Kingdom's support served as a morale booster for mujahidin against the aggressor.

Official Source Denies Giving Aid to Mozambique Rebels

LD311626 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1538 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Dec (SPA) — An official source in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has categorically denied a news item carried yesterday by REUTER quoting the semi-official paper *DOMINGO* published in Mozambique which said that the rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement recently received weapons from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and from another Arab state. The source said that the Kingdom's policy is not to interfere in the affairs of any other state and that the Kingdom does not interfere as a party in disputes among factions. We would have hoped that REUTER would not have hastened to carry a tendentious report such as this quoting any newspaper until it had ascertained the accuracy of the report and the credibility of the source.

UAE

President Sends Condolences on Al-Qawasimi's Death

GF311452 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1245 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 31 Dec (WAM) — President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has sent a cable to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in which he expressed his sincere condolences on the martyrdom of Struggler Fahd al-Qawasimi, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

PDry

Chairman Cables Castro on Cuban Anniversary

GF010740 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text of congratulatory cable sent by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of

the Council of Ministers to Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Council of State and Ministers on the 26th anniversary of the Cuban revolution — date not given]

[Text] On the 26th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution, I am delighted — in the name of the party, the government and the people of the PDRY — to convey the most sublime heartfelt congratulations to the party and to the government of the friendly Cuban Republic and to you personally. I express my pride and satisfaction with the continuous development and the struggling relations that link our two countries. These relations grow stronger and deeper daily owing to the principles and the joint goals that unify our two people and countries. These principles are based on the great views of socialism and the principles of proletarianism.

Dear comrade, we in the PDRY are following the regional developments and the grave situation in the Caribbean and Central America as a result of U.S. imperialist escalation of tensions and disputes with the aim of making the peoples of the region subject to absolute U.S. imperialist domination. We regard these schemes as being part of the comprehensive imperialist plans that are designed to instigate disputes and escalate tension on the international level. This is the situation in our Arab region. We have absolute confidence that through the unity of the international revolutionary powers, through the determination of our people to preserve independence and sovereignty, through the support of the socialist regimes led by the Soviet Union, and through the alliance of the all peace-loving and socialist-loving people all these maneuvers will crumble as the revolutionary will of our people will be triumphant.

On this occasion, we greet your heroic people. We also greet these people for their increased combat-readiness. This has been achieved by your forces through the mobilization of the Cuban people in the struggle to defend their revolutionary cause and the sovereignty of their homeland. Undoubtedly, this is the natural reaction to all the challenges and the hazards facing the Cuban revolution. I am delighted to reaffirm to you our absolute solidarity with the struggle of your people and of the people of the region to defend themselves and confront U.S. interference and aggression. I would also like to express to you our profound satisfaction with the great successes attained by the Cuban revolution during the past years under the leadership of your friendly Communist Party in order to bring progress and happiness to your people and prosperity to your homeland. Dear Comrade Fidel Castro, do accept my sincere esteem and respect.

Chairman Congratulates 'Arafat on Anniversary
GF011620 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT
1 Jan 85

[Text of congratulatory cable sent by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, 1 January]

[Text] On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, I am delighted to convey to you, to all the factions of the Palestinian revolutions, and to our brother Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories, the most sublime fraternal congratulations on this very dear occasion to all the strugglers in the world.

During the past 20 years, the Palestinian revolution has achieved great victories and carried out struggle battles which are the most splendid heroic battles in the history of the struggle of our Arab peoples. The Palestinian issue has won international respect and status due to its legitimate struggle to regain the rights of the Palestinian people. The current conditions and developments, and the increasing tempo of the plots of the imperialism, Zionism, and their alliance against the struggle of the Palestinian people and the Arab liberation movement demands enhancing the unity of the PLO, preserving its status as the sole representative for the victory for which it is struggling.

I am confident that the Palestinian national dialogue will continue to preserve the unity of the organization in the light of Aden-Algiers agreement which represents the basis for preserving the unity of the PLO according to wishes of the Palestinian people.

On this occasion, we affirm to you, and to all brother Palestinians that we will support the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO in order to regain their legitimate rights to return to establish an independent state in their homeland. We wish the Palestinian revolution more victories every year.

YAR

President Receives Lebanese President's Message
GF011906 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT
1 Jan 85

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today received a message from Amin al-Jumayyil, the Lebanese president.

Oil Minister Leaves for Iraq With Message
GF011908 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT
1 Jan 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali al-Bahr, minister of state, chairman of the Petroleum and Mineral Resources Corporation, and member of the Standing Committee, left for Iraq today. He is carrying a message from Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to his brother Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president. The message deals with relations between the two fraternal countries and issues of mutual interest.

'Ali Delivers Statement on Government Policies

NC311711 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today delivered the following statement to the People's Assembly, meeting under the chairmanship of its speaker, Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, in which he replied to the members' discussions of the government policy statement delivered on 15 September

Brother and sister members of the respected People's Assembly:

The government has followed closely and with much interest the discussions that have taken place in this forum about the government policy statement that I submitted to your respected assembly on 15 September and in which the government submitted to the representatives of the noble Egyptian people its vision and work plan for the coming stage.

In its statement, the government explained the policies to which it is committed and the way to implement them. The ministers also delivered detailed statements before the specialized committees during their study of this statement. The report of the committee formed to reply to the government policy statement has been discussed, and the government today asks permission from your respected assembly to comment on what has been said during this debate on the executive, economic, and import rationalization fields.

Investments

The government's policy is based on increasing the resources allocated for public and private investment in implementation of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's instructions to support the two sectors of economic and social development, namely the public and the private sectors.

By 30 June 1984, approval had been given to 1,608 projects from among those falling within the scope of Investment Law No 43 of 1974 as amended, after ruling out the projects that had been withdrawn or had been refused approval.

The investment costs of these projects are estimated at approximately 11.6037 billion pounds. The foreign share is 7.4899 billion pounds, that is, 64.5 percent. It is noted that the contribution of Arab and foreign capitals to the projects approved as of 30 June 1984 is 1.9486 billion pounds, that is, 33 percent of the overall capital of the projects approved. The Arabs' contribution in these is estimated at approximately 997 million pounds, that is, 17 percent, and the foreigners' contribution at 951.6 million pounds, that is, 16 percent.

The Budget Deficit

The government stresses its full concern to adopt all measures to reduce the budget deficit. However, this must be done gradually because of the close link to the development of economic activities, the increase in the state's general income which affects the [word indistinct] capacity of the taxpayers, and to the government's commitments which were included in the general budget, such as subsidies allocations, salaries, public debt obligations, and Armed Forces expenditures.

The government is presently proceeding in accordance with a program aimed at rectifying the budget deficit through:

- Action to increase the income from the public sector companies' investments;
- Action to rationalize government expenditure;
- Action to increase the state's general income, to activate the collection of taxes, to check the pending cases, and to limit tax evasion.

The Government's Shouldering of the Cost of Combatting Cotton Diseases

The government is shouldering the major burden of combatting cotton diseases this year as it has in the past. The cost of combatting the diseases per feddan is 80 pounds, of which the farmer pays only 18 pounds. Thus, for the year 1984/85, the state is earmarking approximately 68.2 million pounds for that purpose. Delaying the payments of the farmers' debts is a matter that requires a complete study of the issue.

Tax Revenue From the Public and Private Sectors

The tax revenue from the private sector in 1981/82, 1982/83, and 1983/84 amounted to 58, 61, and 52 percent respectively of the total tax revenue and 48 percent for the period July-October 1984.

In view of the previous numerous tax laws, Law 158 of 1981 was enacted as a unified income tax law covering all types of income. Subsequently, only an amendment was made by Law 78 to encourage industry and exports. The government affirms that no legislative amendments will be made to the income tax law in order to ensure the stability of the investors' situation.

Supply

In accordance with the government's policy to meet the needs for consumer supplies of the broader base of the people at appropriate prices, the government has adopted several measures to achieve this objective. This includes the implementation of a national program for purchasing agricultural products directly and distributing them to the ultimate consumer directly, thus reducing prices.

Reconstruction

In setting up new societies, the government is eager to construct these in desert land in accordance with Law 59 of 1979 and in accordance with a firm strategy to create new centers that will achieve social stability and economic prosperity and redistribute the population and reduce the population in the cities.

Housing and Utilities

To underline its interest in this sector, the government has given special importance to the question of popular housing and of housing for newlyweds.

In coordination with the Defense Ministry, a piece of land has been acquired on the Al-Ma'adi-Al-Qattamiyah Road for the construction of 5,000 housing units. In fact, work is underway to provide them with public utilities and to construct 1,000 units urgently. Two thousand housing units are currently being built. A survey is being conducted of the requirements of industrial companies close to the housing units to include them in the

remaining 2,000 units. In respect of the needs of youths and new families, a piece of land of 240 feddans on the Ismailia Road has been allocated for this purpose and will be the site of 15,000 housing units.

Water and Sanitary Drainage Projects

Water networks are currently being improved and the capacity of pumping stations is being increased. This is in addition to the sanitary drainage projects in greater Cairo, financed by friendly states, which will eliminate all difficulties encountered by the public at present.

In view of the huge financing required for the sanitary drainage projects at the governorates' level, some friendly countries have been approached to finance the study and implementation of the required projects for drinking water and sanitary drainage in the governorates. In fact, studies have actually started in many governorates preparatory to implementation. This is apart from the current projects in the governorates which are being implemented by state financing.

With respect to the required financing for cooperative housing, 170 million pounds have been allocated to the Cooperatives Authority for loaning, 50 million pounds to the housing bank for the same purpose, and 20 million pounds for loans to owners of old estates in governorates for improvements and maintenance.

Care of Egyptians Abroad

The government reconfirms its policy in that field which is based on the following:

Extending all facilities to those who want to immigrate and work abroad while taking into consideration the homeland's need for manpower and those with expertise;

Linking the Egyptians abroad with the motherland and working to keep the Arabic language alive among them;

Encouraging the flow of the savings of Egyptians working abroad and in implementation of this policy;

The basic bylaws of the General Union of Egyptians Abroad have been prepared. They aim at attaching these workers to the motherland. They will be made public during the coming few months;

The Egyptians Abroad Company for Investments and Development has been established, and it has subsidiary companies working within the state's economic and social development plan. The first of these subsidiary companies is concerned with housing, and the preparations for opening it are now underway;

The government agreed, during the conference of Egyptians abroad which was held in 1984, to a number of measures in accordance with recommendations stemming from [words indistinct] lives.

Foreign Policy

Egypt's Arabism and its meeting of its responsibilities toward reunifying the Arab family have achieved the restoration of Arab rights.

Egypt is committed to peace as a strategic course in its foreign policy.

Egypt is exerting efforts to move forward the peaceful process to retrieve the Palestinian people's rights and to achieve the complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territories.

The government was pleased with the welcome by the Arab people of Egypt, as represented by your respected assembly, of the wise decision of King Husayn to restore relations with Egypt.

We will work to achieve the Nile Valley [word indistinct] by mobilizing all the resources to implement the projects agreed on [words indistinct] in order to achieve this great objective.

Egypt's foreign policy and the respect it enjoys in all international fields strengthen Egypt's position in the international arena and the importance of its contribution to solving international problems.

Assembly Approves Policy Statement

NC311628 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)— At its meeting today under its speaker, Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, the People's Assembly unanimously approved the government's policy statement which Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali delivered to the Assembly in the middle of last September.

The Assembly also unanimously approved the special committee's report concerning the policy statement and the debates that followed, as well as Kamal Hasan 'Ali's statement in the Assembly today.

Counselor Mumtaz Nassar, leader of the opposition in the Assembly, declared his support for the government's policy statement and the prime minister's reply to the members' debate today. He emphasized the importance of implementing the contents of the policy statement and of notifying the Assembly of what has been implemented so that the Assembly can follow up.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Labor Party, also declared his approval of the policy statement and said that Kamal Hasan 'Ali's statement leads to renewed hopes.

'Abd al-Majid on Egyptian, U.S. Roles in Mideast

NC011556 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid has said Egypt's unshifting and strategic goal is to bring just and lasting peace to the Middle East, adding that peace can be just only if it allows the Palestinian people to regain their rights, foremost the right for self-determination.

In an exclusive statement to our radio correspondent, the foreign minister said that, in seeking to achieve this goal, Egypt is contacting the concerned parties to bring them all, including the PLO, to the negotiating table.

Commenting on the U.S. role during the coming phase, 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt is hoping the United States will translate its stated policies into substantive measures that can give momentum to the peace process.

'Abd al-Majid on ICO Conference, Israel

PM011858 Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 31 Dec 84 pp 24-25

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid by 'Abd al-Wahhab Badrakhan in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts][Badrakhan] How did you react to the Syrian-Iranian request that the decision admitting you to the Sanaa conference be reconsidered?

['Abd al-Majid] We were actually surprised by the request that the Syrian and Iranian proposal be added to the agenda. When we received notification from the General Secretariat, we initiated contacts with a number of friendly countries and found them responsive and ready to reject that. Of course the aim of the Syrian-Iranian request was to embarrass Egypt and try to cast doubt on the Casablanca summit conference resolution. They tried to turn their request into a demonstration against Egypt, but it turned out to be a demonstration in support of Egypt by 24 Arab and Afro-Asian states.

[Badrakhan] There was noticeably no mention of "Camp David" in the draft resolution on the Palestinian question. How do you explain that?

['Abd al-Majid] That subject was excluded from the discussions not only by Egypt but also by a large number of delegations. There is a change of attitudes and there is appreciation for Egypt's role. From what I saw I can say that our absence was in nobody's interest. We have now returned legally and honorably.

[Badrakhan] The resolution on the Middle East problem contained some kind of condemnation of the Camp David agreements.

['Abd al-Majid] We of course have reservations and we want to point out that the condemnation of partial agreements deserves no reply from us. For example, they tended to reject Resolution 242. This is a mistake. How can we reject Resolution 242 when a main part of that resolution states that the seizure of territory by force is inadmissible. How can we reject such a thing? Furthermore, the land-for-peace idea was based on Resolution 242. The fact that it has a weakness — which is its reference to the Palestinians as refugees — does not mean that we should reject the first part which does not allow the occupation of territory by force.

[Badrakhan] Will the Egyptian-Jordanian understanding become a tripartite affair with the PLO joining in?

['Abd al-Majid] There is Egyptian-Jordanian and Jordanian-Palestinian understanding and coordination, but we do not see this as a bloc nor do we want it to be a bloc. It is simply consultation in the interest of the Arab cause. It is open to others.

The principles on which it is based are that the Palestinian problem is the core of the conflict, that the Palestinians are entitled to self-determination, that peace should be exchanged for territory, that the PLO is the main party representing the Palestinian people, and that a settlement is possible through an international conference. That is putting it briefly.

[Badrakhan] Egypt has persistently urged a Jordanian-Palestinian understanding. In your view, has that been achieved?

['Abd al-Majid] It is in the process of being achieved. A step has been taken in the right direction.

[Badrakhan] We have heard that Yasir 'Arafat will visit Egypt shortly.

['Abd al-Majid] He is welcome. We are always happy to meeting with him at any time, but there are no arrangements at present.

[Badrakhan] What about a summit meeting between President Mubarak and [Israeli Prime Minister] Shimon Peres?

['Abd al-Majid] Again there are no arrangements at present.

[Badrakhan] If Israel were to come up with a plan for the settlement of the Tabah issue and if it were to withdraw partially from Lebanon, would these two moves be sufficient for you to send the Egyptian ambassador back and improve relations?

['Abd al-Majid] Our conditions are still the same: Israel must withdraw completely from Lebanon. It must be a real and not a cosmetic withdrawal. Tabah must be given back and there should be some movement regarding the Palestinian question. The Egyptian ambassador will not return to Israel before these conditions are met.

[Badrakhan] How do you assess the current situation in Lebanon?

['Abd al-Majid] We sympathize with the Lebanese Government and people over the painful situation and we are making serious efforts with the aim of bringing about an Israeli withdrawal and ensuring that the Lebanese Government regains its sovereignty. We hope that the Al-Naqrurah talks will produce a solution that would restore the government's full sovereignty in the south. In fact, Egypt's position has not changed since the beginning of the Lebanese crisis. We were the first to raise the slogan "Hands off Lebanon."

[Badrakhan] Is Egypt planning to revive its initiative relating to the Iraq-Iran war?

['Abd al-Majid] At present, no. We are trying to help but the Iranians are determined to continue the war.

[Badrakhan] Is your support for an international conference on the Middle East merely a maneuver to get the United States to act?

['Abd al-Majid] No, it is just an effort. In our view such a conference was held in the past. It was held in 1973 in the

presence of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Nations. It led to the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli and Syrian-Israeli disengagement agreements, so the conference idea is not new.

[Badrakhan] Is such a conference possible in the present circumstances?

[Abd al-Majid] No, it is not possible in the present circumstances.

[Badrakhan] What is possible then?

[Abd al-Majid] What is possible is that we could continue to hold contacts aimed at unifying the Arab attitude and produce a full Arab understanding.

[Badrakhan] So you are in favor of an Arab summit conference?

[Abd al-Majid] If a summit conference serves Arab interests then why not, but this is not clear yet.

Coptic Pope To Resume Papal Duties 1 Jan

NC011236 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued a decree by which [Coptic] Pope Shenouda is to resume his papal duties as of today.

Palestinians Hold Anniversary Celebrations

NC012110 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA) — Palestinian trade unions and popular organizations held a rally this evening to mark the 20th anniversary of the inception of the armed Palestinian revolution. The celebrations were attended by Zuhdi al-Qadrah, PLO repre-

sentative in Cairo; Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, minister of manpower and training and chairman of the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions; and delegations representing the trade unions in Iraq and Jordan. The celebrations, which were held at the Hall of the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions, were also attended by throngs of Palestinians residing in Egypt.

Addressing the celebrations, Al-Qadrah said the Palestinian revolution has enabled the Palestinian people to regain their self-confidence and capability of wresting their usurped rights. The PLO representative condemned the assassination of Palestinian struggler Fahd al-Qawasimi in Amman, saying this crime is a new link in the conspiratorial scheme being engineered by some Arab regimes which are trying to harm the Palestinian fighting will. These regimes, Al-Qadrah added, tried over the past months to undermine the independent Palestinian decision.

In his address, the PLO representative reiterated the Palestinian revolution's appreciation for Egypt — people and leadership. He praised Egypt's leading role in championing Palestinian rights and its support for the legitimate Palestinian leadership in its struggle against the plans to subjugate and liquidate the Palestinian people.

The minister of manpower and training delivered a speech in which he lauded the armed uprising in 1965 in defense of the present and future against the colonialist and Zionist plot. He also paid tribute to the Palestinian revolution's martyrs.

The minister then reviewed the Egyptian workers' sacrifices and struggle since the usurpation of the Palestinian land, saying Egyptian and Palestinian blood mixed in the battles of honor and martyrdom for the sake of rescuing Palestine from the most dangerous colonialist plot in modern times. Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad expressed the Egyptian trade unions' support for the wise leadership of Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman. He condemned the assassination plans against Palestinian leaders.

King Husayn Telephones President on New Year

*JN311748 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn received a telephone call from his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, this evening. During the telephone conversation, his excellency and his majesty the king exchanged blessings and good wishes of victory and sovereignty for the two fraternal countries and pride and prosperity for the Arab nation on the occasion of the new year.

Saddam Husayn Message on Holiday Season

*JN311837 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
31 Dec 84*

["Text" of President Saddam Husayn's 31 December message to the Iraqi people on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O sons of our great people, the glorious Christmas and New Year celebrations are upon us all these days to add more happiness to your victories. These feasts coincide with the splendor of your glories and multiply your joy as a result of your efforts and sincerity and the outcome of your heroic sacrifices and steadfastness. The march of construction, victory, and achievements which began with the birth of your 17 July Revolution will continue and increase its yield. You are the guardians of this march. You repulse the covetous and evildoers, protect your homeland and achievements, and defend the life of honor, dignity, and peace which you enjoy. Our celebration of the birth of Christ has noble meanings and implications that stem from our deep belief in sublime principles. The birth of Christ affirmed the importance of these principles to the life of human beings. While defending our land, its riches and resources against the tyrannical Iranian aggression, we are also protecting all the values, meanings, and principles that began and flourished in this land throughout its radiant history. Our country was the cradle of civilization and the home of eternal divine messages.

Your efforts will soon be decisively triumphant, God willing. You are right and your enemy is wrong. This is an occasion on which I am pleased to extend congratulations and wishes of a life of pride and dignity to the sons of our people, particularly the Christians. I pray to God Almighty that this occasion will return when our people are enjoying victory, prosperity, and peace and when great Iraq's flag is flying high.

Spokesman Says 'Large Maritime Target' Hit

*JN311415 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1400 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Iraqi crushing blows will continue to fall on the heads of the Khomeyniite regime, and out of their determination to disrupt the vital artery of the Iranian regime, which has used the resources of its country to commit aggression against our people,

the valiant hawks of the air pounced on a large maritime target [location of attack not specified] at 1430 today [1130 GMT], scoring accurate and effective hits, as is their custom, and returned with their planes safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

Our Armed Forces will continue to hammer the heads of the criminal rulers of Iran so that they may relapse their real size and proceed on the road to peace, which is the only alternative. It is God who grants victory.

31 December 1984

Communique on Hit, Other Activities

*JN311736 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Communique No 1,697 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 31 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While bidding farewell to another year that has been crowned with more victories over the clique of ignorance and backwardness that is ruling in Iran, and during which our great people have entrenched the values of freedom, justice, sacrifice, and construction, our valiant Armed Forces renew their pledge to their lofty people and their unique leader Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn that during the coming year they will continue on the road to decisive victory. The soldiers of Iraq will continue to add new and glorious feats to the annals in defense of the homeland and its sons. The results of the activities for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Continuing to impose a siege on Khark island and other Iranian ports, preventing the Iranian regime from exploiting its revenues to pursue the aggression, and replying to the evil tongues in Iran which only use vulgar language, the hero hawks of the air pounced on a large maritime target this afternoon, scoring accurate and effective hits and returned with their planes safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

2. The valiant Iraqi hawks continued to dismember the retreating Khomeyniite remnants and to destroy their military hardware and equipment in the Maysan sector. The combat missions for today totalled 85 after which our valiant hawks returned safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

3. Our daring helicopter gunships continued their courageous raids on Khomeyniite remnants and their military hardware in the Maysan sector, inflicting losses and destroying one medium caliber machine gun, one steamer whose occupants were killed, two observation posts, and one 106 mm gun mounted on a vehicle. They also destroyed enemy troop concentrations on the front row [al-satir al-amami]. All our helicopters returned safely and triumphantly to base.

4. One of our forward units pounded enemy positions and engineering equipment opposite their forward positions in the east of Basra operational sector with their weapons, killing two, wounding many, and destroying two infantry positions whose

occupants were killed. Our forward unit also hampered the enemy's engineering activities.

5. Using artillery and mortars, one of our forward units dealt a fierce and effective blow to enemy positions in the central sector of the battlefield, inflicting on the enemy losses in life and equipment, and destroying two infantry positions whose occupants were killed. While carrying out its duties in no-man's-land, one of our courageous patrols captured weapons the enemy had left behind in previous battles.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 31 December 1984

Communique No 1,698 Reports Latest Operations

JN011726 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
1 Jan 85

[Communique No 1,698 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 January 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The glorious Iraqi soldiers are continuing their fight in defense of the homeland and the happiness and safety of its sons. The following is a summary of our heroic Armed Forces' operations for last night and today:

1. Our forward units continued to pound enemy positions, weapon emplacements, and troop concentrations east of Basra inflicting losses in equipment and supplies, killing three soldiers, and wounding others. Our units also destroyed two infantry positions and set them on fire.

2. Using artillery and other weapons, our forward units pounded enemy positions, weapon emplacements, and observation posts in the Maysan sector, destroying two observation posts, two infantry positions, and one medium machine gun emplacement, killing those manning it. Our forces created fires and explosions in other enemy positions.

3. Our artillery dealt violent, concentrated blows to selected enemy targets and other fortifications in the central sector, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment.

4. The spiteful enemy shelled a civilian establishment near Basra with heavy artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 January 1985

'Aziz Briefs National Assembly on Gulf War

JN011245 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Iraq will continue to strike at Iranian interests. In a report presented to the final meeting of the current Iraqi National Assembly session yesterday about Iraq's foreign policy, the foreign minister said that Iraq is standing on solid political ground because it abides by international law and by the resolutions of the United Nations and the

international community and because it responds to peaceful efforts to stop the war. He pointed out that Iraq agrees to halt the Gulf war as a step toward effecting an overall settlement. However, he ruled out agreeing to the partition of the war. [sentence as received]

The Iraqi foreign minister denied there are ongoing efforts to halt the Iraqi-Iranian war and emphasized that nothing exists in this regard at present. He described talk about Gulf mediation to stop the war as press rumors. Asked about Iranian threats to close the Strait of Hormuz, the minister said: Iran cannot do that. This is a meaningless and hollow threat because Iran will be the loser. By doing so, it will be tying the rope around its own neck. Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq had responded to the Islamic states' peace efforts in two messages sent to late President Ahmed Sekou Toure in which it expressed its readiness to accept the arbitration of the Islamic Good Offices Committee or the ICO concerning the side which began the war and the side responsible for its continuation. He talked about the nonaligned states' position on this war, their call for an end to it, and their commendation of Iraq's stands and acceptance of the Nonaligned Movement's summit resolutions in New Delhi, making reference to the peace plan presented by Egypt within the Movement's framework and to the adamant Iranian attitude toward it despite Iraq's acceptance.

He also referred to the Iranian regime's attitude at the recent Islamic foreign ministers conference in Sanaa and its insistence on continuing its aggression against Iraq. He indicated that Iraq has agreed to the UN Security Council resolutions on cease-fire, while the Iranian side showed intransigence and rejected these initiatives. The foreign minister stressed that Iraq is enjoying a distinguished and strong international position and is getting world wide support at all international forums and circles at a time when the Iranian regime's seclusion is increasing and its external relations are retreating due to its intransigent stands and insistence on committing aggression against Iraq.

National Assembly To Attend APU Meetings in Aden

JN021047 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 Jan (INA) — The Iraqi National Assembly will participate in the 15th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], due to begin in Aden on 26 January. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, chairman of the Arab and international relations committee at the Iraqi National Assembly and head of the Iraqi delegation, has said that Arab parliamentarians will discuss transferring the APU headquarters to the PDRY, the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Palestine question, the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon, the Red Sea mining, and the Iranian regime's attacks on oil tankers in the Arab Gulf. The APU will also discuss the Ethiopian occupation of Somali territories and will follow up topics related to the Arab- European and British-Arab-African parliamentary dialogue. Hammudi explained that delegates will attempt to unify their stands in order to reach a unified Arab plan to be submitted to the 73d IPU conference in Togo. Hammudi pointed out that the Iraqi delegate will submit a draft resolution on the Iraqi-Iranian war to the conference and another draft resolution on all pan-arab issues with the aim of reaching a unified stand at the IPU meetings.

JORDAN TIMES Reports Husayn To Visit Moscow
JN290651 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Dec 84 p 1

[by Lamis K. Andoni, *JORDAN TIMES* staff reporter]

[Text] Amman — A planned visit to Moscow by His Majesty King Husayn is expected to take place in the first half of the new year, but no firm date has been set yet, authoritative sources say.

The King's visit to the Soviet Union was expected to take place late this year, but it is now set for sometime in the first half of 1985, most probably in a few months, the sources told the *JORDAN TIMES*.

The sources ruled out describing the development as a "postponement" of the King's visit to the Soviet Union. "A date for King Husayn's trip to Moscow was never officially set," the sources said. "So the new date cannot be said to be a postponement," they added.

The *JORDAN TIMES* has learnt that the King received Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Rafik Nishanov last week and received from him a verbal message from the Soviet leadership dealing with the current situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations. Mr. Nishanov had just returned from Moscow when he met with the King. No more details on the contents of the message were immediately known.

Over the last year the King has repeatedly called for the participation of the Soviet Union along with the United States in an international conference which Jordan considers to be the best framework of a negotiated just settlement for Palestinian question.

A senior Eastern diplomatic source in Amman said that the King's call for Soviet participation "was well received and highly appreciated in Moscow." The source, however, ruled out any kind of link between the timing of the King's visit and any future political moves in the area.

Moscow is keen to reach an understanding with Amman on the approach to solve the Palestinian problem, the source said, and there will be extensive discussions by the Jordanian and Soviet leaderships on this specific point.

"Although King Husayn's talks in the Kremlin will no doubt be inextricably linked to Middle East peace moves, we see no reason to tie the visit with any particular political move in the area," the source said. "Definitely the timing has no relation with other developments and moves," the source stressed.

The authoritative sources described the state of Jordanian-Soviet relations as "excellent" and expected the King's visit to Moscow to strengthen existing cooperation between the two countries and open new doors for future cooperation.

"Everything is going so well in every aspect of bilateral cooperation, and the King's visit to Moscow will surely crown this cooperation," the sources said. "Both sides are totally agreed on the need to develop ties between them, but not at the expense of anybody or any state. Jordan and the Soviet Union are clear on

this, and the King's state visit to the Soviet Union will take place in this context."

The sources strongly dismissed suggestions, however, that the strained relations between Jordan and Syria, which maintains strong ties with the Soviet Union, will have any effect on the King's expected visit.

"It is true that some Arab countries may well be opposed to the King going to the Soviet Union," the Eastern bloc diplomat said. "But the Soviet Union is not too much concerned about this attitude. Moscow is more interested in establishing healthy relations with all its Arab friends, based on mutual respect and noninterference in each other's affairs."

On a much-talked about arms deal between Jordan and the Soviet Union, the signs are very positive, the sources said, adding that the question of reaching an agreement to supply Jordan with Soviet arms is going to be thoroughly discussed during the King's stay in Moscow.

The sources did not wish to go into details of the arms deal, but Jordan is known to be mainly interested in buying Soviet anti-aircraft missiles.

On economic, trade and cultural cooperation between the two countries, there is an understanding that much more could be done, and the issue will be raised and discussed when the King pays his visit to the Soviet Union, the sources said.

King Sends Condolences on Ustinov's Death

JN221914 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
 1900 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to Konstantin Chernenko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, expressing in his own name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and Government heartfelt condolences to Chernenko, the Soviet leadership, and the Soviet peoples, on the death of Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Dimitriy Ustinov. His majesty wished his excellency the Soviet president continued good health and progress and prosperity to the friendly Soviet peoples.

'Ubaydat Sends Cable to Soviet Defense Minister

JN231556 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
 1400 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Amman — Prime Minister and Defense Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat has sent a cable of congratulations to Marshal Sergei Sokolov on the latter's appointment as Soviet defense minister. The following is the text of the cable:

On the occasion of your appointment as defense minister in the friendly USSR, I am pleased to send to you our heartfelt congratulations and sincerest wishes. I also seize this opportunity to stress the existing friendship between the two friendly countries, wishing continued health for you and progress for the noble Soviet people.

Interior Minister Leaves for Cairo 2 Jan

*JN021239 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
2 Jan 85*

[Text] Amman — Sulayman 'Arar, minister of interior and deputy prime minister, left Amman today for Cairo on a 3-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of the Egyptian minister of interior.

In a statement to PETRA, 'Arar said that this visit aims at discussing several issues of mutual interest including facilitating the travel and residence of the two countries' citizens and cooperation in the field of smuggling and the pursuit of smugglers. He added that the two sides will discuss cooperation in general between the two fraternal countries and its progress in the fields of economy, transportation, trade, and industry, whose bases were set during the recent meetings between both countries' officials.

New Indications of Oil Reserves in Jordan

JN310800 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Dec 84 p1

[Text] Amman (J.T.) — New indications of the existence of oil reserves in Jordan unfolded Sunday as drilling work at the Third Hamzah Field reached a depth of 3,000 metres, well-informed sources said Sunday. The sources told the *JORDAN TIMES* that final results of the existence of oil in the Third Hamzah Field will be known in 10 days when the drilling is expected to reach 3,800 metres.

Primary findings, however, indicated that the oil field is an extension of the Second Hamzah Field where oil was located at the depth of 3,510 metres three months ago. The sources said that a delegation from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will visit Baghdad soon to benefit from the Iraqi expertise in oil exploration.

Military Council Approves Timetable for Plan

*NC010634 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT
1 Jan 85*

[Excerpts] The Military Council held a meeting from 1100 to 1830 yesterday, chaired by Army Commander General Michel 'Awn and attended by all council members and the members of the Joint Liaison Committee.

During the meeting, the council approved the coastal area security plan, with none of the parties expressing any reservations on the details therein. Representatives of the Amal Movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, and the Lebanese Forces signed the plan. The conferees then drew up a timetable for the steps that will be undertaken by the Liaison Committee, in cooperation with the internal security forces command, to prepare for the army's entry into the coastal highway area on 6 January.

It was also agreed to declare a comprehensive cease-fire on the mountain and in Iqlim al-Kharrub at 2000 yesterday. The Liaison Committee will go to the coastal area and Iqlim al-Kharrub to do the following:

1. Remove mines and open roads all along the coast and in Iqlim al-Kharrub;
2. Remove fortifications and barriers in the area to be covered by the plan;
3. Assemble weapons prior to having them removed from the area, under the committee's supervision.
4. Arrange for the arrival in Iqlim al-Kharrub of the internal security forces 72 hours prior to the army's entry. The committee will make a field inspection prior to the army's deployment on the eve of the withdrawal of the gunmen who are from outside the area.

The army command will also meet with the French observers command, in an effort to include them in the group that will be entrusted with supervising the implementation and with denouncing any party that may try to violate the agreement.

More Details on Security Plan

*NC011804 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
1 Jan 84*

[Text] The Military Council yesterday approved the practical steps that are to be carried out with regard to the security plan and that were approved by all parties concerned. These steps are:

1. The implementation will begin with the deployment of internal security forces in Iqlim al-Kharrub tomorrow morning. Meanwhile, the Cabinet will be convening and the Iqlim al-Kharrub Liaison Committee will also be meeting at the horse race track tomorrow morning.
2. In the first phase, security forces will take up positions in Al-Damur.

3. The dirt barriers will be removed from the road preparatory to opening the crossing points to pedestrians following the gathering of heavy weapons at two centers, one in Al-Jiyah and the other in Darayya.

4. The army will start deploying on Monday morning. It could deploy earlier if the preliminary steps are expeditiously implemented. As soon as the security forces are deployed, each party will undertake to remove the mines in its area whereupon the road will be reopened. As for the withdrawal of the armed persons from the combat areas, this will take place on the eve of the army's deployment.

With regard to the Al-Jiyah port, the conferees agreed on the need for halting the shelling of the port and of the Al-Damur-Kafr Him road. As for the details pertaining to the [words indistinct], these will be studied following the implementation of the plan. The conferees also agreed on a total cease-fire in Iqlim al-Kharrub as of 2000 last night. They also expressed the hope that the situation on the combat lines on the mountain will be cooled down since these lines are undoubtedly affected by the situation in Iqlim al-Kharrub, pending the implementation of the plan for the reopening of the Al-Jumhur-Sawfar-'Alay-Suq al-Gharb-'Aramun road.

At the end of the meeting, the conferees expressed their eagerness that the plan be meticulously followed, because it is a political-military plan. The minutes of the meeting were signed by all the parties.

It has been learned that internal security forces will inspect their positions as of tomorrow, provided that the gunmen begin withdrawing as soon as the security forces complete their deployment. This will be followed by the withdrawal of the heavy weapons from Iqlim al-Kharrub on the eve of the army's deployment. Security forces will patrol the areas that are included in the plan in order to ascertain that the plan is being properly implemented.

The Liaison Committee will meet tomorrow to study the situation of the Al-Jiyah port, provided that this is preceded by a halt in the shelling of the port and by the reopening of the port in return for opening the Kafr Him road. Tomorrow the committee will study operations at the port with regard to the transportation of civilians and its use for civilian and humanitarian purposes.

Voice of the Mountain Report

*NC312107 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 2000 GMT 31 Dec 84*

[Text] The Military Council met today in the presence of the Joint Liaison Committee members. The meeting ended with agreement on a number of points, the most prominent of which are: a comprehensive cease-fire to start at 2000; and the setting of next Wednesday and Thursday [2 and 3 January] as the days for inspecting the positions. The implementation will begin on Friday.

An informed military source said that there was agreement and that the plan was approved but that these matters remain ink on paper. We have to wait for the implementation.

A political source with knowledge of the discussions that took place at the meeting said: The army has tried to shift blame by saying that the army agrees but the [Lebanese] Forces continue to oppose, which makes the citizens fear the collapse of the agreement and gives the impression that it is being politically thwarted by the Lebanese Forces through their shelling this morning and at present. Barja continues to come under 120 mm mortar shelling from [word indistinct] and Dubbiyah. There is also sniper fire on Ra's al-Jabal.

No 'Significant Violation' 1 Jan

NC011213 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
1 Jan 85

[Text] During its meeting yesterday, the Military Council decided to declare a comprehensive cease-fire in Iqlim al-Kharrub as of 2000 last night. This agreement was violated shortly after it was announced. However, no significant violation of the cease-fire was reported today.

Karami Interviewed on Security Plan, Issues

NC301050 Beirut THE DAILY STAR in English 29-30 Dec 84
p 5

["Text" of interview given by Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami to DAILY STAR Political Writer Husayn Dakrub in West Beirut — date not given]

[Text][Dakrub] Eight months after the formation of the national unity Cabinet none of your government's four main goals — liberation, security, reforms and reconstruction — have been achieved. What is your reply?

[Karami] The present Cabinet represents the national unity of the Lebanese, and consequently, it is the guarantee for safeguarding the main foundation for the continuation of Lebanon as a democratic state capable of carrying out its duties. The continued functioning of the government is but a confirmation of this principle.

Despite the differences which arise every now and then among the Cabinet members, I affirm that these will neither affect the fate and work of the government, nor the bases and objectives for which the government is striving to achieve, especially in regard to restoring security and liberating the south, the Western Al-Biq'a' and Rashayya.

All these objectives conform with the supreme Lebanese interest.

Security plans and (attempts at) the reunification of the Army — which is the tool capable of implementing these plans — confirm that efforts toward ending Lebanon's ordeal are continuing.

No one should expect Lebanon to recover completely from the diseases plaguing it in eight months. We will continue to work in accordance with the provisions of the government policy statement until we realize our four objectives: Liberation, security, reforms and reconstruction.

[Dakrub] Why has the government failed so far to solve the security problem, and who is blocking the peace process in Lebanon?

[Karami] In fact, I primarily blame the continued Israeli occupation for Lebanon's security problems. The enemy (Israel) stands behind most (security) flare-ups and struggles which are occurring. However, we consider the steps taken to consolidate security — be it the security plan carried out in Greater Beirut, or the Army deployment in Tripoli — herald a breakthrough for the whole country.

I have great hopes that the plan to reopen the coastal road (to the south) will be implemented within the next few days, to be followed by cooling off the Suq al-Gharb front in the mountains.

All these matters confirm that the security march is being consolidated and that we must emerge from the whirlpool in which we are living.

[Dakrub] But the coastal road plan is still bogged down. Will the plan eventually be implemented?

[Karami] I can confirm that the implementation of the coastal road plan is a matter of few days. God willing, the beginning of the year 1985 will witness the most significant step toward extending the peace march up to the Al-Awwali. I consider this move (to the Al-Awwali) essential for the salvation of Lebanon.

Hence, we can rest assured that following contacts made (with the parties concerned) all difficulties, which held up implementation of the coastal road plan, have been surmounted.

[Dakrub] We have started hearing calls for the resignation of your government. Will the government step down?

[Karami] This is out of the question. The government was formed to carry out a national task aimed at uniting and salvaging the country. It has accepted to shoulder responsibility at this historic stage and will not shy away from performing its duties.

[Dakrub] So resignation is completely ruled out?

[Karami] Definitely.

[Dakrub] Since its formation on April 30, the national unity Cabinet has been beset by inter-disputes and Minister Walid Junblatt is now boycotting the Cabinet sessions. How are you going to cope with the rifts inside the Cabinet?

[Karami] I have said that there are differences in viewpoints that happen every now and then and we are trying to tackle them by reconciling the divergent viewpoints in order to arrive at common denominators.

We have agreed on the coastal road plan in such a way that would ensure its implementation in the next few days. The same thing would apply to the issue of (political) reforms and other problems.

We are striving to find solutions for every problem with the aim of rescuing the people.

[Dakrub] Minister Junblatt has begun to criticize you and is even regretting [as published] the days of former Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan's government. What is your comment?

[Karami] These (Junblatt's) statements cannot exceed the limits of rhetoric because deeds and practices emanate from a common will to serve the supreme Lebanese interest.

Therefore, these remarks could not affect the existing cooperation between us.

[Dakrub] Do you think that the Al-Naqurah talks on Israeli troops withdrawal will end in failure or lead to an Israeli pullout?

[Karami] Our goal in going to Al-Naqurah is to do everything that should be done to bring about a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the south, the western Al-Biq'a and Rashayya without any conditions or restrictions in accordance with the Armistice Agreement and the UN Security Council Resolutions 425, 508 and 509. This is the right path for liberating our country.

We will continue to strive to achieve this goal without abandoning our general principles which are designed to liberate Lebanon and restore its sovereignty completely.

[Dakrub] According to your information, do you think Israel will try to scuttle the Al-Naqurah talks?

[Karami] In fact, we do not care about Israel's attitude, because, in the end we count on our rights and on the (UN) resolutions. Hence our unshakeable position. We will continue to work for liberation.

In this regard, we consider that the national resistance is playing a major role and this is best manifested in the reactions and reverberations inside Israel.

When we hear that Israel is threatening to stage a unilateral and complete withdrawal, it is our desire and hope to see this happen.

[Dakrub] If the Al-Naqurah talks collapse, what will be the alternative for achieving the Israeli withdrawal?

[Karami] We will continue our efforts in all directions and with all states, especially the United Nations. Following our attitude toward deployment of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, Israel is trying to make us appear as if we are against this force and against the UN. On the contrary, we are grateful to UNIFIL and to the states participating in it for the valuable job the force is doing.

Our position is firm in regard to supporting this force and benefiting from it south of the Al-Litani. This position conforms with the provisions of Resolution 425 which created this force and outlined its task. Therefore, we are confident of our position which is based on justice and on international resolutions and on our friendship with the world states which are ready to support us in achieving a complete Israeli withdrawal.

We also appreciate the Arab, albeit divergent, attitudes which back the liberation of Lebanon without any conditions or

restrictions. The unified Lebanese stance, both at government and popular levels, remains the biggest support for our position.

[Dakrub] What are the government's plans to confront Israel's repeated threats to stage a partial withdrawal from the south and to break off the Al-Naqurah talks?

[Karami] I have said that we will continue to carry out our duty in liberating our land with all available means and potential at the local, Arab and international levels.

[Dakrub] Economic conditions are getting worse, the government's measures taken to check the unstoppable rise of the dollar have failed, and now even the well-off people are feeling the pinch of inflation. What is your reply?

[Karami] The dollar issue is, in reality, a problem from abroad. We cannot check the rise of the dollar because the rise is general in various countries. However, we will resort to some local measures that would prevent the dollar rise from fuelling inflation and causing a chaos in prices.

We are in contact with the Bank of Lebanon and doing our best to tackle these matters. I am confident that despite the difficulties facing our economy, we will be able to extend the possible assistance to various sectors to help them cope with the economic hardships.

The security problem, no doubt, can adversely affect the economy. As I have said, I am optimistic that the situation in Lebanon is headed toward the desired stability that would help in tackling various issues.

Karami Speaks at AUB on Talks With Israel

*NC281944 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
28 Dec 84*

[Speech by Prime Minister Rashid Karami delivered on 28 December at the American University of Beirut assembly hall on the anniversary of the death of former Minister Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-Labban — recorded]

[Excerpt] Who among us does not know what is really going on at the Al-Naqurah talks? There is much talk about Lebanon's stand vis-a-vis UNIFIL, the area of its deployment, and its responsibilities. Most of this speculation about Lebanon's stand is based on a [word indistinct] tackling of this issue, without full knowledge of all its aspects. Hence, I find it imperative to clarify Lebanon's stand which was expressed by the Lebanese delegation and which officials have clearly and repeatedly confirmed.

1. Lebanon has no reservation with regard to UNIFIL, or the countries participating in it, or the UN Organization. Lebanon has repeatedly stressed its gratitude for the role it has played and continues to play in helping the state retrieve its sanctity and sovereignty. I would like to stress again in the name of the Lebanese people and government our thanks and gratitude for all who have contributed to this noble task.

2. Lebanon considers that the complete implementation of Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 425, is the way to arrange the situation in south Lebanon and to enable the state to carry out its normal role there, that is, to maintain security through its legitimate armed forces.

3. Lebanon considers that the precise aim of the talks going on at Al-Naqurah is to find a timetable which will lead to the implementation of these resolutions, and that is a program for the Israeli Army's withdrawal from all Lebanese territories in accordance with Resolutions 508 and 509 which stipulate a full and unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

4. Israel's emphasis on the issue of expanding the area where UNIFIL will be deployed is aimed at evading the issue of the basic solution which I have mentioned, namely the implementation of Resolution 425 which stipulates the deployment of this force in the region lying south of the Al-Litani up to the international border and enabling the Lebanese Army to be deployed there. Israel is accusing Lebanon of refusing to give the UN forces the natural role defined for them within the jurisdiction given them by Resolution 425. The demand for expanding the area of UNIFIL's deployment to the north of the Al-Litani is only an Israeli maneuver whose aim is to prevent these forces from performing their real task.

5. In addition to this, Israel is linking the deployment of these forces north of the Al-Litani to a complete plan to divide the territories under occupation into two regions: the first will be under the control of the UN forces and will be assisted by token units from the Lebanese Army. This area lies between the Al-Awwali and Al-Zahrani. The second area lies between the Al-Zahrani and the border and will be under the control of the southern Lebanese army, that is the Lahd forces, and will be assisted by token units from UNIFIL. The legitimate Lebanese Army will have no right to set foot there. This means that if Lebanon accepts it, this whole plan will lead to slicing the south off Lebanon for good and to giving a permanent legal status to the Israeli control there. Hence to say that Lebanon is rejecting the deployment of the UNIFIL north of the Al-Litani stems from a contrived and an inaccurate view of the substance of the Israeli plans. This deployment is only part of the Israeli plan which no Lebanese can accept.

6. Lebanon's stand has not changed. We continue to seek the implementation of the UN resolutions, while Israel continues to try to avoid it. It would be useful here to refer to the speech I delivered at the recent UN General Assembly session, while taking the following points into consideration:

A. Resolutions 508 and 509, which were approved by the UN Security Council, are the proper legal basis for organizing Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon's territory. This means that these two resolutions, which are based on Resolution 425, legally define the area of UNIFIL's deployment and its task.

B. Independent Lebanon is the master of its own decisions; hence, the contents of paragraph 8 of the speech will be decided upon by Lebanon in consultation with the United Nations, in accordance with what Lebanon views as suitable and within the context of a plan to regain its control over its own territory.

Lebanon refuses to permit the UN forces to play any role except within this framework and with the intention of achieving this objective. It might be useful to read this paragraph again in full, to confirm what was said:

Lebanon believes that the UN forces now in the south have a basic and very important role in supporting the Lebanese Army when the Israeli forces withdraw, and that the UN forces' participation in this is necessary in the initial stages of the Lebanese Army's deployment. Therefore, Lebanon calls for the reinforcement of these forces, increasing their number, expanding the area of their deployment, and strengthening their effectiveness in order to enable the State of Lebanon to retrieve its legitimate authority over its territory up to the internationally recognized borders.

C. Lebanon is committed to the contents of paragraph 10 of the speech, which says: The security arrangements that we hope to agree upon must reflect Lebanon's sovereignty and demonstrate respect for its rights. They must stress the firmness of its condition as a sovereign state, whose rights are protected and borders respected. On the basis of this premise, Lebanon will not accept the presence of a military force in the south with the exception of the legitimate authority's Lebanese Army. This is our clear and firm stand.

Karami on Prospects for 1985, Crossings Issue

*NC311613 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1515 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami today expressed optimism about the prospects for 1985 and declared that crossings were supposed to open today. Speaking after he had received senior Government House officials, the prime minister said that 1984 was a tragic year and he expressed hope that 1985 would bring solutions to the problems facing the Lebanese, and would end the long Lebanese nightmare.

Prime Minister Karami stressed that government objectives remain security, reform, liberation, and reconstruction. He insisted that the government would be pursuing the realization of these goals during the coming year. Prime Minister Karami said that Lebanon was willing to discuss all issues. In a reference to the problem of the kidnapped persons, the prime minister said that contacts were continuing with the hope that an acceptable solution could be found. Prime Minister Karami said that he expected contacts with parents and families of kidnapped people to lead to the opening of crossings linking the two sectors of the capital.

The prime minister arrived in Beirut this morning from Tripoli where he spent the weekend. His helicopter touched down at the Military Beach at 1000. On arriving at Government House, the prime minister contacted various parties to discuss the issue of the closure of the crossings [words indistinct] of kidnapped and missing people. Later in the day, the prime minister received the new South Korean ambassador in Lebanon, who submitted a copy of his credentials in preparation for presentation to President al-Jumayyil.

Shortly before noon, the prime minister received the director general of social welfare, Mahdi Sadiq, who thanked Mr Karami for his role in securing the release of the director general who was kidnapped earlier in the week.

Birri Calls for Increased National Resistance

NC311430 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] On the occasion of the new year, Lawyer Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, made the following statement:

[Begin Birri recording] On the occasion of the new year, I believe that all Lebanese, each within his own field, must participate in our national resistance. This is the most important thing, national resistance. As for the Amal movement and for me personally, we will continue our actions to achieve the goal. [end recording]

Lebanese Official on Israel's Withdrawal

GF011936 Doha QNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 1 Jan (QNA) — Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese chamber of deputies, has affirmed that Lebanon has no choice except to liberate its land and regain its sovereignty. Israel has no way except to unconditionally withdraw from all Lebanese territory or the overall Lebanese nationalist resistance will force it to do so, he said. Our objective is unifying and liberating Lebanon now that the Israeli option failed with the abrogation of the 17 May accord and after it has been proved that the dismemberment of Lebanon is impossible, Al-Husayni added.

In a statement to the Al-Shariqah-based newspaper *AL-KHALIJ*, published today, Al-Husayni emphasized Lebanon's Arab character. Lebanon, and southern Lebanon in particular, is the Arab nation's first defense line because if Israel succeeds in implementing its plot of separating Lebanon into sectarian entities, it will directly threaten all the nearby Arab countries. This requires quick action by Lebanon and the Arabs to secure continued support for the resistance in the south, he said.

The Lebanese official said he will shortly lead a delegation from the Lebanese chamber of deputies to tour a number of Arab countries to mobilize Arab energies and efforts in this direction.

Al-Husayni called for international efforts to expose the enemy's plots and its continued violation of UN resolutions. He held the United States directly responsible for Israel's aggressive practices, particularly in Lebanon.

Palestinian 'Terrorist Cells' in Al-Biq'a'

NC311247 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] A security report from Al-Biq'a' indicates that the PFLP has recently created terrorist cells that include mercenaries from Eastern Europe and from North Korea. In Mahallat al-Rawdah,

the dissidents set up a camp and reinforced it with two detachments [sariyatayn], field artillery and anti-aircraft guns.

The PFLP has also established a center in Ta'lbaya, near the Mar Ilyas Church, gathering over 100 of its members there. Meanwhile, the Palestinian called Abu Salih has moved his command post, amid strict security measures, to the area of the Kafr Zabad Road, near the Wardah farms. There have also been movements by groups belonging to the so-called Palestinian Liberation Army in Duris, while Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] has established a center for his security branch in the town as well.

Further Report

NC311901 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] A security report from Al-Biq'a' has indicated that the Palestinian Popular Front had recently established terrorist cells, including mercenaries from Eastern Europe and North Korea.

There is tightening Syrian control of all vehicles moving into the Al-Biq'a' Valley, and more checkpoints are reported to have been set up by the Syrian forces there. The Syrians are also reported to have wiped out roadblocks and checkpoints set up by the Hezbollah. Hezbollah had imposed a ban on the sale of all alcoholic drinks in the area, but Syrian forces reportedly announced that alcohol could be sold at will under their own protection.

Fatah Official Assassinated in 'Ayn al-Hulwah

NC291805 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] A Palestinian official, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Qadamani, was assassinated in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp this afternoon. Our correspondent reported that Al-Qadamani was a Fatah official and the founder of the Action Organization for the Liberation of Palestine [al-hay'ah al-'amilah li tahrir filastin]. Our correspondent added that Al-Qadamani was also an Israeli agent.

A Palestinian organization calling itself the Revolutionary Horror [al-ru'b al-thawri] has claimed responsibility for the incident.

16 Ansar Camp Detainees Reportedly Wounded

NC312118 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, today received a message from the Ansar detention camp saying that an uprising broke out in the camp in December during which 16 people were wounded by the occupation soldiers' fire.

The detainees staged a 7-day sit-in which ended today at the request of Kamil Rida, Amal official in the camp, and at the request of ulamas Hasan Ayyub, 'Abd al-Karim Shams al-Din, 'Abbas Harb, and Muhammad Qlayti.

In their message, the detainees stressed the need for bringing pressure on international organizations to care for them and to stop the savage onslaught in the camp.

Resistance Fighters Attack Israeli Patrol 1 Jan

*NC011031 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT
1 Jan 85*

[Text] Lebanese national resistance fighters detonated two explosive charges as an Israeli patrol was moving along the 'Ayn Al-Dilb-Harat Sayda road this morning. Eyewitnesses said that an enemy military vehicle was hit and that its occupants were killed or wounded. The Israeli patrol opened random fire, wounding Hasan Muhammad Isma'il, 16, Musa 'Abbas Husayn, 13, and Nada 'Ali Isma'il, 13. They were taken to the hospital for treatment.

At the same time, shooting was heard near the Martyrs Square and the Al-Rahibat junction, believed to be part of a combing operation carried out by enemy troops.

Israeli Convoy Attacked Near Al-'Aqbiyah

*NC011216 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
1 Jan 85*

[Text] An Israeli military convoy of 18 trucks, a jeep, and a tanker has been attacked by national resistance fighters in the area of Al-'Aqbiyah, on the coastal highway between Sidon and Tyre. Security sources reported that the attackers fired on the convoy, initiating a 7-minute clash with the Israeli troops. The sources added that the jeep leading the convoy was hit, but no information is available about casualties. The Israelis immediately sealed off the area and mounted a search operation, firing in all directions. They detained 15 people for interrogation.

Israeli Force Storms Village, Loots Houses

*NC011436 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT
1 Jan 85*

[Text] We have received a report from security sources in the south that an Israeli motorized force with approximately 1,000 soldiers stormed the village of Bidyas at 0315 today and searched and looted houses. The value of the stolen goods is estimated at approximately 1 million pounds.

The Israelis had prepared for the attack on the village by cutting the power supply during the night. They then stormed the village. The inhabitants awoke to the sound of the engines of the Israeli military vehicles. The village inhabitants confronted the attackers with stones and sticks and clashed with them. In the clash, Husayn 'Ali Ibrahim, who has two sons detained in Ansar camp, was wounded. The Israelis arrested nine persons: Musa 'Ali Qa'farani, Mahir 'Ali Qa'farani, Muhammad Husayn Qa'farani, Hasan Samih Burghul, Muhammad Mahmud Qa'farani, Ahmad Amin Qa'farani, 'Abd al-Karim Husayn Khalil, Mahmud Dib Qa'farani, and Mansur Dib Qa'farani.

Eyewitnesses have reported that while searching a house, Israeli soldiers threw bedding material on a 1-month old baby. When the baby's mother tried to remove the bedding material from her child, a soldier prevented her, saying: It is better for him to die now rather than grow up into a future terrorist.

Islamic Movement To Start TV Transmission

NC020800 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 31 Dec 84 p 7

[Text] The Islamic Unification Movement has been installing television transmission equipment in Tripoli for some time now. Test transmission will begin on channel five at the beginning of 1985.

Vice President Khaddam Reportedly Visited Moscow

NC011232 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT
1 Jan 85

[Text] Diplomatic reports received by the Voice of Lebanon reveal that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam visited Moscow late last week for 24 hours. He met with Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, in particular. Nothing official has been said about the visit either in Moscow or in Damascus.

Libya's Jallud Arrives in Damascus 1 Jan

JN011526 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT
1 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus — Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September Revolution Command Council in Libya, and his wife arrived in Damascus at 1430 today. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, his wife, the Libyan charge d'affaires, and the Libyan liaison office staff in Damascus received Jallud at Damascus International Airport.

Confers With Al-Asad, Khaddam

JN011838 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT
1 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad received Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September Revolution Command Council in Libya, at 2030 today. Maj Jallud conveyed to the president a message from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The president asked Jallud to convey a reply message. The talks revolved around the situation and developments in the region as well as matters of mutual interest.

Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Maj Jallud at 1900 today. The talks revolved around the current Arab situation.

Speaker Al-Zu'bi Meets USSR Ambassador

JN311217 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT
31 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus — People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi today received USSR Ambassador in Damascus Felix Fedotov. During this meeting, they reviewed some of the current issues in the region and bilateral relations, especially on the parliamentary level. They also discussed the importance of exchanging visits and delegations to strengthen these relations in all fields and at all levels in order to serve the common interests, which are based on the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two friendly countries, and to strengthen the liberation struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Al-Asad Congratulates Castro on National Day

JN311441 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus, 31 Dec (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has sent Cuban President Fidel Castro a congratulatory cable on

the anniversary of Cuba's national liberation day. President al-Asad expressed in his name, in the name of the Syrian people, and in the name of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Command sincere congratulations and warm wishes to President Castro, the Cuban Communist Party's Central Committee, and the friendly Cuban people.

President al-Asad said that the fact that both Syria and Cuba are in the same trench in the struggle against U.S. imperialism and Zionism emphasizes Syria's eagerness to bolster solidarity and relations of friendship and cooperation with Cuba. He expressed confidence that the continuing development in these relations will serve the interests of both peoples and will reinforce their stand against their common enemies.

AL-BA'TH on Anticipated Israeli 'Aggression'

JN311112 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT
31 Dec 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Basic Facts Prior to Premeditated Aggression," the newspaper *AL-BA'TH* says: All observers and analysts in the region have noticed two contradictory facts regarding the Israeli policy. The first fact is the Israeli leaders' ability to practice deception in order to hide their intentions. This is demonstrated in the multitude of Israeli statements on withdrawing from Lebanon whether completely or in stages, while events affirm that Israel is entrenching its occupation and colonization of the south under the Labor Party, the originator of the settlement plans in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan.

The second fact is that the Israeli preparations are within the framework of the joint Israeli-U.S. intentions, for while the United States and Israel are misleading the Arabs with empty statements and insincere promises, Israel has reinforced its preparations for aggression in southern Lebanon and set up strategic military centers which are clear indications that Israel is preparing for aggression that has been much publicized by the Israeli news media and by Western imperialist capitals. For its part, the United States has taken upon itself the task of disrupting Arab ranks through its agents in the region or CIA agents who are endeavoring to turn the Arab homeland into a quagmire of blood that will make unity of the Arab voice almost impossible for a period of time to be determined only by the U.S. Administration.

AL-BA'TH continues: It is well known that Israel carried out every aggression in its wars against the Arabs only after the United States had prepared for it by agitating Arab ranks to an extent that would not allow the Arab nation's soldiers to honor their military oath. For proof of this we do need to go far back in history. When the Arabs decided to fire the first bullet as was the case in October 1973, victory was on their side. Israel as well as the United States fear a repetition of 6 October. This is what has made conspiring against the Arab unity a preliminary to any Zionist aggression.

It is now clear to observers and followers of events that the United States has almost succeeded in filling the Arab region with corruption, and that the U.S. intelligence, which emerged from

its dens in Ra's Banas, Bahrain, and Jordan's 'Ajlun, has begun to preoccupy the Arabs with their own blood in the hope that it might be able to drive a wedge in what remains of Arab unity. All this is being concocted against the Arabs in order to be a factor of strength and support for Israel in its anticipated aggression, which will primarily be aimed against Syria, and will only end at the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and the deserts in the Mashriq.

AL-BATH concludes: Therefore, the Israeli aggression will not surprise any Arab because the preliminaries have already begun and because the United States has indeed succeeded in splitting and agitating Arab ranks to an extent that will permit Israel to launch its aggression. However, Syria, which is aware of all the Israeli and U.S. plans, has promised and continues to promise the Arabs that it will reverse all the results and calculations in the interest of Arab right and destiny.

SANA: New Faction Joins Anti-Iraqi Front

JN301531 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus, 30 Dec (SANA) — The political leadership of the Democratic, National, and Patriotic Front announced in a statement today that the Socialist Nationalist Congress [mu'tamar al-qawmiyin al-ishtirakiyin] has joined the front. The statement praises the stands of the Socialist Nationalist Congress, which is a unionist socialist faction that is struggling to topple the agent Iraqi regime and which has adopted a firm national policy against the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary conspiracies against the Arab nation and its national liberation movement.

Concluding the statement, the front pledged to the Iraqi people to continue the victorious militant march until it topples the agent regime in Iraq, and establishes a democratic, patriotic, coalition rule capable of accomplishing the national liberation tasks.

Rabin on U.S. Aid, Settlements, Lebanon

TA291107 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT
29 Dec 84

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yitzhaq Ben-Ner and Yosi 'Abadi; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpt]['Abadi] As for U.S. aid to Israel, what is your attitude toward U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' advice on how to handle the Israeli economy? How do you interpret U.S. willingness to increase military aid but not economic aid?

[Rabin] When we talk of relations with the United States, especially when we talk about an Israeli request for increased aid, for aid beyond the \$2.6 billion grant, I think it is natural that when we request additional money we should explain why we are asking the U.S. taxpayers to give a considerable amount of economic aid to the State of Israel, what we need the aid for, and what we intend to do with the aid. We have done this for years now when requesting military aid. When we ask for military aid, for economic aid for military needs, we begin by spelling out the threats Israel faces, what military buildup we want to achieve, more or less, and as a result, what we need from the United States in order to obtain that military power needed to respond to the threats. The United States knows that there will be no peace in the Middle East, that a war will not be prevented unless the State of Israel is militarily strong, and this is why the United States wants to help us. It is therefore natural to have a dialogue when dealing with economic problems, just like the one in the military sphere.

[Ben-Ner] On the settlements issue, threats are again being made to establish settlements without the government's approval in the event the government does not decide on this. In your meeting with representatives of the Judea and Samaria settlers, have you been able to reach some sort of agreement to forestall such initiatives?

[Rabin] I did not hold a discussion with the settlers. During the negotiations to establish the national unity government, a Likud-Alignment coalition agreement was signed, and this agreement stipulates the manner and procedures to be followed in making decisions on all aspects of a new settlement: new settlements, those settlements that have been approved but not established yet, and the development of established settlements. In this framework, it was agreed that within a week after the establishment of the government a decision would be made on the names of five to six settlements. For reasons that I cannot specify we have not made such a decision. I met with a Likud delegation in order to discuss the implementation of this coalition commitment. We committed ourselves to do this in the framework of the coalition agreement and we will implement a decision on the matter on the basis of agreement.

[Ben-ner] And beyond this — what about settlements that have not been approved?

[Rabin] No government would agree to unauthorized settlements set up in areas where the Cabinet alone can approve them. Therefore, I believe that the national unity government as well

will indeed make sure that no settlements are set up, unless approved by the government.

[Ben-Ner] In conclusion, Mr Rabin, it is customary to sum up the first 100 days in positions such as yours. The question arising then is whether you had anticipated that your first 100 days would be as difficult as they seem to have been?

[Rabin] I did know that the Defense Ministry was going through a difficult period. If you had asked me which are the two most difficult problems I face, I would have said one is to change a 10-year-old pattern of large budgets allocated for defense, of momentum and development. What am I doing now? I have to make cuts, to decrease things; there are decreases and cuts instead of growth and momentum. This means, in effect, decreasing the size of the IDF to a certain extent. This is not an easy task. This task creates difficulties for me and for the entire system. The second issue is Lebanon. I knew that nothing wonderful could ever emerge from the Lebanese situation.

[Ben-Ner] The Gordian knot still remains.

[Rabin] The situation is still difficult and there is no good solution. Any solution we choose will involve risks for the Army, for Jewish settlements; we cannot avoid difficult decisions here and these may not always be acceptable to some segments of the population. When I first became defense minister and during the first 100 days, I knew what I was getting into. I knew I would have to decrease the size of the Army and make cuts, as well as get us out of the distressing situation in Lebanon with a solution that will surely be disputed by the public.

Ambassador Rosenne Expects U.S. To Increase Aid

TA291224 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT
29 Dec 84

[Interview with Israeli Ambassador to the United States Me'ir Rosenne by U.S.-based correspondent Razi Barqay; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text][Barqay] On the issue of U.S. aid to Israel, Israeli Ambassador Me'ir Rosenne believes we should not lose sight of the basic point: Israel is indeed being criticized, he said, but we should not forget that this year cuts are also being made to the U.S. budget. Rosenne does not know whether we will ultimately receive the entire \$5 billion we asked for, but his remarks indicate that despite the commotion we will still receive more than we did this past year. In general, Me'ir Rosenne said, the United States is not refusing, but it is postponing a decision for several months.

[Rosenne] One point should be made clear: To the best of my knowledge, the United States has never told Israel what it should do. During the prime minister's visit here, as well as in all the contacts we have held, there was a general discussion about Israel's economic policy but there was no intention of dictating one move or another to Israel. The decision on which measures should be taken is in the hands of the Israeli Government which decides these issues.

[Barqay] Let us picture a scenario together. Suppose the U.S. Administration does not give us the entire sum we requested, namely, \$4.9 billion. Suppose we then approach Congress, use Israel's friends there, and provoke a sharp confrontation between the U.S. Congress and Administration. Are we preparing for such a possibility?

[Rosenne] First, I do not believe that the U.S. Administration has given a final answer to our request. In recent years, as you know, there was an agreement, more or less, between the administration and us on the amount of aid. I do not think we should talk about a confrontation, since it is clear to the U.S. Administration that when it has an ally, Israel, it is important for this ally to be strong. I am convinced the U.S. Administration considers Israel's economic stability extremely important for its own interests as well.

[Barqay] Mr Rosenne, am I to understand from your remarks that we want an agreement with the Administration regarding the amount of aid and that once we achieve such an agreement, we will not approach Congress for additional money?

[Rosenne] There is no doubt that we want to reach a full agreement with the Administration on the amount of aid we are requesting. I do not expect a confrontation between Israel and the Administration because the Administration seriously views our requests and the U.S. secretary of state himself devotes hours to this issue. This proves how earnest the U.S. Administration is in dealing with Israel's problems, how far it is willing to go to meet our needs.

[Barqay] Israeli officials sound less optimistic than Rosenne. Many of them feel uncomfortable in view of the large sum of money we are asking for and the preaching by the United States this has prompted.

Deputy Minister Milo on Egypt, Shultz Remarks

TA291407 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Roni Milo by correspondent in the Knesset 'Oded Ben-'Ami; time and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpt][Ben-'Ami] There are indications of difficulties with the Lebanese, that the Syrians almost completely refuse to enter a dialogue, and that American mediation is not really proving to be successful. Could we, perhaps, think of new involvement in the region, a new type of help in solving the problem, by Egypt maybe.

[Milo] I am not sure that there are additional elements that can influence the Lebanese arena. As is well known, the Lebanese Government is under almost total Syrian influence. The Syrians view the Lebanese issue as a Syrian issue which is close to their hearts. The Syrian influence on the Lebanese Government, on Karami and others there, is very great. President al-Jumayyil too is prone to Syrian influence and maintains contacts with President al-Asad. At the same time, there is no identity between Lebanese and Syrian interests regarding the matter at hand. Against this background, there may be room for additional ideas.

Perhaps in the context of the warming-up of relations with Egypt, which is expected in the very near future, Egyptian assistance on this issue is possible. The Egyptians have an interest in the Lebanese issue, in general events and developments in the Arab world, and there may be room to consider a dialogue with the Egyptians on this matter too. We should certainly keep in mind the tense relations between Egypt and Syria, but at the same time, this should not obstruct an attempt to take up new roads and pursue new ideas on the issue of finding a solution which will be satisfactory to us. If the Egyptians are willing to do this, we should not oppose it, against the background of the peace agreement and Israeli-Egyptian relations.

[Ben-'Ami] On this matter, could we possibly think of stationing UNIFIL forces in the region which the IDF will evacuate in southern Lebanon, if and when it does so, and could we think of adding Egyptian units to these forces?

[Milo] At this stage I cannot elaborate on the issue. However, the Egyptians may perhaps be incorporated in one solution or another. The idea of stationing UNIFIL units to prevent the infiltration of terrorists into the area evacuated by the IDF — allowing them to renew their attacks against Israel — has already been discussed. In such a context we could also consider the incorporation or involvement of the Egyptians. At this stage, however, I would leave this issue for further study. It can be part of the general efforts to find unconventional solutions to our problem in southern Lebanon, that of evacuating the IDF while absolutely guaranteeing the peace of the Galilee. On this issue, I would not recommend that the Israeli Government adopt unilateral moves which will not guarantee peace for the Galilee. Ultimately speaking, if katyusha rockets land on the Galilee again and if we again face a serious threat there, we will be unable to tolerate such a situation. We will then have to react again and will again find ourselves at the same point where we are today. On this issue I would adopt intensive efforts to obtain such arrangements as to unconditionally guarantee peace for the Galilee. I believe we can do this.

[Ben-'Ami] Another matter which is under your purview as one of the decisionmakers on foreign affairs — and which has preoccupied the Foreign Ministry's higher echelons this past week — was the affair of the message which was apparently sent by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz in the wake of Israel's aid request. This message — which may not have been sent to begin with — was commented upon by Minister Ya'aqobi.

[Milo] I assume — actually this is more than an assumption — it was sent by the press. This message did not exist in reality. There was no message from U.S. Secretary of State Shultz on this issue. There were no dictates. There were discussions, with U.S. senators who visited Israel and with the U.S. ambassador here, among others. These discussions did not deviate from the framework of exchange of views and ideas. However, I can with complete confidence say that there were no intentions here to dictate, that is there was no dictate from a high commissioner. I believe that from this standpoint we should not react to matters which have not taken place, certainly not in a way which could offend one of the good friends we have in the Washington administration, Mr Shultz.

[Ben-Ami] Still, let us talk about the actual aid. We have been hearing about remarks in Washington and we know what the U.S. economic situation is, and it seems that the request for additional aid next year will not be heeded. How do we react to such a situation? Will we continue to exert pressure in any event?

[Milo] Our relations with the United States are those of allies who share common goals in many spheres, including the desire to score positive accomplishments. That being the case, we should bear in mind that the current economic situation in the United States — particularly in everything pertaining to the balance of payments — is not all that good. Therefore, we should understand the problems the Americans have regarding foreign aid. At the same time and in view of our relations of alliance, I have no doubt that the Americans are aware of the importance of Israel's economic strength and its potential as the only democratic ally the United States has in the Middle East. Therefore, I believe that when we end our talks with the Americans, we will be able to reach an accord and understanding which will both satisfy us and our needs in terms of U.S. aid and which, on the other hand, will not impose too much of a burden on the Americans. To date, our requests for economic aid from the United States have all been heeded. In fact, ever since the Camp David accords were signed, we have had a very close relationship, a relationship of allies coupled with strategic and economic cooperation with the United States. The agreement on the establishment of a free trade zone with the United States will be signed soon and this will represent an important contribution to the Israeli economy. I would regard the entire issue in the context of talks and understanding between close and friendly countries which are looking for the best ways to promote the issues troubling them, in this case, the economic problem which has been bothering Israel to a large degree. On this matter, I can only express my optimism and hope that the problem will ultimately be solved favorably and that the United States will continue to fully comply with Israel's economic and military needs to our satisfaction.

Shamir on Clash With Alignment Over U.S. Policy

TA010847 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
1 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Vice Premier Yitzhaq Shamir said last night that the Likud and the Alignment could find themselves on a collision course concerning Israel-U.S. relations. Shamir told the Likud's Knesset faction that the Alignment objective of policy coordination with the U.S. agreement on the status of Israel's borders represented "enslavement and lowering the national profile." Shamir said the Likud was not prepared to make concessions to the U.S. on vital national issues. Israel's relations with the U.S. today are at an all-time high, despite major differences of opinion on borders and settlements, he said.

Ghali Says Egypt Opposes Phased Withdrawal

TA310635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0621 GMT
31 Dec 84

[Text] Egypt is opposed to the idea of a phased Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Egyptian Minister of State Butrus Ghali said this to the chairman of the Department for Foreign Relations of the

Labor Party, Yisra'el Gat. Ghali pointed out that a phased withdrawal would emphasize the principle of territorial conquest in Lebanon, and Egypt cannot agree to this. Yisra'el Gat reported to the prime minister over the weekend on his talk with Dr Butrus Ghali.

Egypt Presents Position Paper on Autonomy Talks

TA020901 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT
2 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The following are Egypt's conditions for the resumption of the autonomy talks which have been frozen for 2 years: a return to the spirit of Camp David, meaning a return to full autonomy; the incorporation of Jordan and the Palestinian representatives into the negotiations; and Israeli good-will initiatives in the territories. These conditions are detailed in a position paper presented by the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, to the International Peace Center. The Egyptians are no longer demanding an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon as a condition because they apparently understand that this is imminent.

The Egyptian position paper was presented last night at an International Peace Center meeting held in the Knesset. The meeting was opened by the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Abba Eban, who sharply criticized Yitzhaq Shamir.

Eban Says Talks With Jordan Being Explored

TA021106 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
2 Jan 85 p 4

[Report by Yisra'el Tomer]

[Excerpt] Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said in yesterday's meeting of the Knesset members' forum of the Israeli Peace Center that Cabinet members, and especially Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, are sending out feelers and exploring the possibilities for advancing the negotiations with Jordan. "I do not want to give any details, in order not to foil this move," said Abba Eban.

Levi Says Redeployment Plans Submitted to Rabin

TA311657 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT
31 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi today attended the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session. He told the committee members that the IDF has already prepared new plans for a redeployment in Lebanon and these plans will be submitted to the Cabinet. There is no totally safe solution, the chief of staff stressed. Lt Gen Levi also referred to the assassination of Fahd al-Qawasimi and said that after being asked for his opinion, he recommended not allowing his burial in Hebron because he feared disruptions. Our correspondent in the Knesset, Ilana Dayan, reports:

[Begin recording] Chief of Staff Lt Gen Levi today submitted a report to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, as part of the regular briefings he gives to the committee. On the issue of Lebanon, Knesset Member David Magen asked what deployment the IDF would prefer in Lebanon. The chief of staff said: The IDF has prepared various military plans. We have submitted to the defense minister various alternatives for our continued activity in Lebanon, and they will be brought before the Cabinet. Afterwards, I will present the options here as well. There is no completely safe solution, Chief of Staff Levi stressed. Any decision will involve taking risks. [end recording]

Reportage, Comment on New Settlements Issue

Farmers Plan 4 New Settlements

TA310845 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
31 Dec 84 p 2

[Text] Tel Aviv — The Farmers Federation is planning to establish four settlements soon, including one in the Jordan Rift Valley and another in the Gaza Strip, a settlement adviser to Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin said yesterday.

Shlomo Wolf, who is also in charge of settlement efforts for the nonpartisan federation, said the settlements would be Elisha' in the southern Jordan Rift, to be settled by Russian immigrants; Shevet, a fishing village to be set up in the northern Gaza Strip by ex-Navy men; Avtalyon in the Negev and Pi-Ner in Lower Galilee.

Wolf spoke at a press conference called here to announce the Farmers Federation convention, scheduled for January 7-8 at Shavei Ziyon near Nahariya.

Khirbat al-Rumaythah Plans Postponed

TA310844 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
31 Dec 84 p 2

[Report by the defense affairs correspondent]

[Text] Tel Aviv — West Bank settlers yesterday postponed plans to try to settle in the Khirbat al-Rumaythah site in Hebron because they saw the army was on alert.

'Otni'el Schneller, secretary of the Council of Settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, told THE JERUSALEM POST they had planned to bring several caravans to Khirbat al-Rumaythah. Four families live on the northern slope of the area and they planned to renew their attempt to settle another part of it. The IDF got wind of the plans, however, and the number of guards was increased, a military source said. Schneller said it was clear the army had advance information and his group decided against a confrontation. The decision to postpone action was taken on Saturday night and was also influenced by the murder of Hebron's exiled mayor, Fahd al-Qawasimi, in Amman. Schneller said his group did not want to put the army under too much pressure.

Likud To Demand 20 Settlements

TA311045 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Dec 84 p 1

[Report from Bat Yam by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] Speaking at a meeting of Herut activists in Bat Yam yesterday, Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the establishment of six settlements in Judea and Samaria is expected after the 1st year of the establishment of the national unity government. Later, he said, the Likud will demand the establishment of an additional 20 settlements which the Likud government had already decided on in the past. This demand will be made by virtue of the coalition agreement.

Department Head Opposes New Settlements

TA020818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT
2 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Nisim Zvili, the cochairman of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department on behalf of the Alignment, is sharply protesting to the prime minister the intention to set up six new settlements in Judea and Samaria. The intention to establish the settlements, Zvili says, represents an approach based on obduracy and disregard of the data in the area. Zvili says he will shortly demand that the Labor Party thoroughly discuss the policy of settlement beyond the Green Line. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports in the studio:

The debts of the settlements beyond the Green Line amount to \$75 million, and reference is mainly to settlements in the Jordan Valley and on the Golan Heights. A large part of the debts stems from a delay in the transfer of state funds, Zvili says in the letter he sent to the prime minister. There are 500 empty housing units in the settlements beyond the Green Line, 350 of which are in Judea and Samaria. These apartments cost \$20 million. There is a small number of families spread over many settlements, even less than 10 families in each. The situation is difficult, Zvili says, and calls for reorganizing. The establishment of new settlements during this period is a terrible waste of national resources and should be totally stopped for at least 2 years, Nisim Zvili emphasizes, so as to rehabilitate the existing ones, although Zvili does not believe this will indeed happen.

Further Reportage on Al-Qawasimi Death, Reaction

AL-FAJR Editorial

JN311046 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 30 Dec 84 pp 1,5

[Editorial: "The Silencer Will not Silence the Palestinian Voice"]

[Excerpts] Those who aimed their cowardly, treasonous bullets at struggler martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi wanted to assassinate the Palestinian revolution and its independent decisionmaking. Although Abu Khalid [Al-Qawasimi] had followed the line of those who fell, and will fall, as martyrs, the revolution remains. The silencer which the agent traitors used will not be able to silence the Palestinian revolution.

Fahd al-Qawasimi was getting ready to leave for the USSR today for the sake of Palestine and the cause of its people. But the agent traitors could not tolerate what Abu Khalid was doing. They could not face argument with argument, and logic with logic — hence the treachery and the silencer.

Amid our loss and grief over Fahd al-Qawasimi we must not forget that the path to freedom and the independent homeland is not planted with roses, but mines and bloodbaths. Although our loss and grief was doubled because Abu Khalid was killed by treasonous hands, we must not forget that our backs have often been subjected to the daggers of treachery and the swords of savagery.

Burial in Hebron Refused

TA010533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has made it clear to the U.S. Embassy deputy chief of mission that for the time being, Israel will not allow Fahd al-Qawasimi's body to be brought to Hebron. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the U.S. diplomat emphasized that his request was at the behest of Al-Qawasimi's family. Jerusalem, however, noted that he had also made this appeal because the United States believes this would be a humanitarian gesture.

Jordan Rejects Exchange Deal

TA011750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1730 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Israel charges that Jordan foiled a proposal that Fahd al-Qawasimi be buried in Hebron in exchange for returning four missing IDF soldiers who are in its hands. Our correspondent in Judea and Samaria Arye Gus heard this from the coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmuel Goren.

[Begin Goren recording] In compliance with the appeal by the Hebron Al-Qawasimi family that the burial of Fahd al-Qawasimi in Hebron be allowed, Israel answered it would be prepared to do so if the four missing IDF soldiers were located and returned. The four are: Samir As'ad, Zekharya baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Tzvi Feldman.

Israel transmitted a message in this spirit to the Jordanian Government through the Al-Qawasimi family members who left for Jordan on Sunday morning [30 December]. A positive reply has not been given so far, but Fahd al-Qawasimi's burial in Amman clearly indicates that the proposal was rejected.

Israel reemphasizes its willingness to implement its proposal. Israel will continue to make every effort to learn of the fate of its four missing soldiers and to bring them home.

I would like to add that this proposal was initiated by the defense minister who brought it to the government's attention and received the ministers' approval for it. [end recording]

West Bank Tribute

TA010845 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jan 85 p 7

[Report by David Richardson]

[Text] In Hebron there was a complete commercial strike yesterday and throughout the West Bank people listened to and watched the burial [of former Hebron mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi] on Jordan TV and radio.

East Jerusalem newspapers carried hundreds of obituaries and tributes to Al-Qawasimi and were unanimous in their condemnation of the assassination.

Even *AL-MITHAQ*, a paper which has supported the Fatah rebels and has bitterly attacked 'Arafat for his rapprochement with Jordan, published an unambivalent denunciation of the murder.

Bassam Al-Shak'ah, the former mayor of Nabulus widely regarded as the most radical of the main West Bank leaders, published an emotional obituary condemning the shooting and paying warm tribute to Al-Qawasimi, "my friend and partner in the struggle."

Other West Bank and Gaza mayors signed an obituary pledging to continue "along the path set by the martyr — Al-Qawasimi."

"The real target of the assassination was the heart of our cause as it was aimed at deepening and perpetuating the internal Palestinian strife," the mayors wrote. They condemned the "hired criminal hand" and "the plotters and masters who stand behind."

Among those at Al-Qawasimi's funeral were Bethlehem resident and Palestine National Council member Mustafa Ribki and some 250 residents and notables from Hebron and surrounding villages.

Security forces in the West Bank and Gaza are also anticipating some unrest today, the 20th anniversary of the formation of 'Arafat's Fatah organization.

Mourning Procession Turns Violent

TA011125 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] In Hebron, a quiet mourning procession in memory of Fahd al-Qawasimi turned into a violent demonstration after the demonstrators — mostly students — headed toward the municipal building. They took a coffin out of Al-Qawasimi's house, and planned to hold a symbolic funeral for him. The security forces demanded that they disperse, but when they refused, the security forces were forced to use teargas and to shoot in the air. The area was proclaimed a closed military area, but was later reopened to traffic.

Incidents Reported in Territories on 'Fatah Day'

TA010931 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0921 GMT
1 Jan 85

[Text] A hand grenade was thrown at an Israeli car in Gaza. Although it exploded, the passengers were unharmed. A local resident who passed by was slightly injured. Our correspondent Gil Ronen reports that IDF units are currently searching the area.

There were a number of incidents in Judaea and Samaria today, probably to mark Fatah Day. Stones were hurled at an IDF patrol in the Nabulus casbah; at a bus in Ramallah; and at Israeli workers in Gane Tiqva in Samaria. None of the people at whom the rocks were thrown were hurt.

Bomb Explodes in Jerusalem

TA011251 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT
1 Jan 85

[Text] A bomb went off this morning near Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem and police safely dismantled another one planted in a public park outside Jerusalem City Hall. There were no casualties in the explosion. The commander of the Jerusalem District police has called on the public to take special care today, the 20th anniversary of the founding of the PLO.

Labor Secretary General Fears Division of Left

TA300726 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
30 Dec 84 p 2

[Report by Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] The move toward unity begun last week by groups to the left of the Labour Party may be dangerous to the state because it could ultimately divide the left, Labour's Secretary General 'Uzi Bar'am said yesterday.

Bar'am was commenting on the Masa'd forum, in which MAPAM, Citizen's Rights Movement [CRM], Peace Now and other groups' representatives met last Thursday with the intention of forming a new party left of labour.

"I don't think MAPAM should give a hand to a forum which is not promising to begin with and is potentially dangerous to the State of Israel in the long run," Bar'am said.

He said that with the danger of Kahanism and radical right-wing elements in Tehiya and the Likud, it is imperative for the left to rally with the Labour Party instead of against it.

Bar'am charged the leftist groups and parties with not reading the political map correctly. "A limping, faltering Zionist left body, even with five or six mandates in the next Knesset is no medicine against Kahanism," he said, adding that there is room for groups and movements within the Labour Party, not against it.

MAPAM Central Committee Secretary Hanan Erez com-

mented yesterday that MAPAM would be glad to cooperate with the Labour Party to stop the rightist tendency in Israeli society and to fight the Likud in the Histadrut elections.

CRM Knesset Member [MK] Shulamit Aloni yesterday blasted the Labour Party for being a "bureaucratic opportunistic" party. Aloni was commenting on MK Abba Eban's criticism of the Masa'd forum. The two participated in a discussion held at Bet Lessin yesterday.

Aloni said that during its seven years in opposition, Labour was busy courting the religious and right-wing parties, and strengthened the chief rabbinate instead of teaching the values of democracy.

Aloni also accused the Labour Party and government of turning a deaf ear to the new voices coming from Arab nations.

Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem Reactivated

TA311153 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Dec 84 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Refa'el Mann]

[Excerpt] The Cabinet yesterday reactivated the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem Affairs, which will handle topics related to the status of the capital. By Cabinet decision, the Ministerial Committee on Internal and Environmental Protection Affairs will also serve as the Committee on Jerusalem Affairs.

According to this decision, any time the committee — headed by Interior Minister Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz — discusses something that has to do with Jerusalem, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will be asked to participate in the deliberations, and he will then serve as the ad hoc committee chairman for this purpose.

Cabinet for Continued Economic Package Deal

TA301533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT
30 Dec 84

[Text] The Cabinet has decided that this evening its representatives will work out the principles for a continuation of the package deal. It was also decided that the talks with the United States on the request for additional aid will not continue until the economic policy is determined for the period after the present package deal.

Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that today's session was mainly devoted to economic matters, in which the finance minister came under criticism. Ministers David Levi, Mordekhay Gur and Moshe Qatzav accused him of using unemployment as an economic device. Moda'i and Levi accused each other of causing leaks. The director of the budget department reported that very little had been done concerning budget cuts, and the finance minister said that it is impossible to implement the budget cuts before the Knesset approves the laws pertaining to them. It was decided that representatives of the Cabinet, headed by Shim'on Peres, will convene the coalition members to persuade them to approve the laws as soon as possible.

11 Percent of Overall Budget Cuts Effectuated

TA311146 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Dec 84 pp 1, 11

[Report by Shraga Meckel and Oded Granot]

[Text] The reports presented by the Finance Ministry during the Cabinet session yesterday shows that of the overall cuts of \$1.375 billion decided upon by the Cabinet, only \$150 million have in fact so far been slashed — or approximately 11 percent. Additional cuts of \$61 million are being implemented.

The \$150-million cut includes \$80 million from the defense budget (this was reported to the Treasury by the Defense Ministry).

The Cabinet passed two resolutions on cuts, one involving \$1 billion, of which only \$211 million have in effect been cut. The rest has yet to be implemented: \$104 million of the education budget; \$410 million of the other Cabinet ministries; \$75 million from the National Insurance Institute's budget; and \$200 million from subsidies.

In the realm of subsidies, not only are the cuts not being applied, but due to the price freeze, another \$200 million will be funneled toward subsidies by the end of January.

Nothing has actually been done about the second set of cuts — totaling \$375 million — also decided upon by the Cabinet. It includes \$100 million from defense, \$30 million from health, \$40 million from education, \$30 million from the local councils, \$125 million from the other ministries, and \$50 million from the National Insurance Institute.

The Treasury yesterday reported on bills intended to save \$600 million, which have been decided upon by the Cabinet, but whose legislation has not yet been completed.

The prices of fuel, electricity, and water will be increased in January, even before the expiration of the current "package deal." This is the intention of the Finance Ministry, which is currently engaged in secret negotiations over this with the Histadrut. These negotiations have been going on for about a week.

This plan was backed by the ministerial committee on the "package deal" affairs when it met yesterday in the office of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

Peres Calls For Inquiry into Bank Shares Collapse

TA011116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1041 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that there is no choice but to establish a fair legal commission of inquiry, free of political intervention, to investigate the collapse of the bank shares. He thinks the commission should examine past mistakes and prevent the recurrence of such errors in the future. Mr Peres was speaking in the course of a tour of Qiryat Gat, and his remarks were reported by our correspondent Gadi Sukenik.

The Knesset Public Audit Committee met this morning to discuss

the issue, and our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that the committee was divided over the question of whether such a committee should be established forthwith. Our correspondent notes that Attorney General Prof Yitzhaq Zamir also attended the beginning of the meeting, but left later. The committee, however, is still in conference.

Minister Gad Ya'aqobi was today added to the committee examining recommendations regarding the future handling of the banks affair. Other members of the committee are Ministers Nisim and Shahal, as well as Knesset Member David Liba'i, who is the chairman of the Knesset Public Audit Committee.

Tomorrow the Jerusalem District Court will debate one of the biggest lawsuits filed in this connection. About 40 moshavim from the Jerusalem area are suing Bank Leumi for approximately \$1 million compensation for not having sold their shares prior to the crash.

The banks have remained silent today, too, refusing to comment on the State Comptroller's report.

Ya'aqobi Comments

TA011834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi believes there is no choice but to establish a national commission of enquiry into the bank shares affair. In an interview to the radio Ya'aqobi said the commission will shortly have to submit an interim report in which conclusions should be drawn regarding those responsible for the bank shares collapse.

The state comptroller today informed the attorney general in writing of a suspicion that the banks committed criminal offenses in this affair. In his appearance before the Knesset Public Audit Committee, the state comptroller explained that the suspicion involves offenses against the Securities Authority's law.

Sharon, TIME Attorneys Allowed to See Annex

TA021139 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Text] The Voice of Israel's political correspondent says the Cabinet committee that decided to allow lawyers for Ari'el Sharon and TIME magazine to look at the secret annex of Kahan Commission report also took another step — that is, to let the lawyers go through the entire testimony submitted in secret by five officials: the deputy director of the Mosad special services; the head of the General Security Services, the Shin Bet; former chief of military intelligence Yehoshu'a Sagi; the present chief; and the colonel in intelligence. Yesterday, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee approved the decision to let the lawyers see the secret annex.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Revolutionary Committees

*LD011513 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT
1 Jan 85*

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution met the members of the Police Revolutionary Committees in the People's Hall in Tripoli yesterday. He commissioned them with revolutionary missions demanded by the stage of revolutionary change.

Draft Bill for Military Training Program Issued

*LD131549 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] The commander in chief of the Armed Forces issued a decision concerning the implementation of the draft bill of the Militarization of the People Law approved by the basic people's congresses and the students' and women's congresses at their first session of 1984. The draft includes the necessity for every Libyan, male and female, to carry arms to implement the eternal saying: Power, wealth, and arms in the hands of the people. Therefore, it has become imperative that every Libyan, male and female, capable of performing the actual service of general military training should carry arms and defend the nation's honor.

The draft also includes basic military training for secondary education or its educational equivalent regardless of their titles or what quarters they belong to. All secondary schools and their equivalent have been assigned to the various military units so that the secondary student or the equivalent will continue at the unit where he has been militarized, whether he pursues his higher education or not.

The draft also arranges the callup for 2 days training each month and for 1 month each year for all sectors of the population, including students. The student has to report for training for 2 days a month at the nearest military unit with the closest specialization to his own military unit. For a 1 month period they have to report to their original units.

According to the provisions of this draft, all popular establishments and militarized utilities will be assigned to the military units. The same applies to craftsmen, professionals, and farmers, as well as other sections of the people. Then they will all be called up for general military training at their original units for 2 days a month and for 1 month each year.

The draft also stipulates that what applies to the popular establishments will apply to the proper military barracks.

The draft lays down the punishments for violating its provisions, which include administrative sanctions and criminal sanctions. The administrative sanctions contain some administrative measures which are linked with the need to abide by the militarization program, while the criminal sanctions will include the application of the criminal law and the military measures.

The (?committee) has granted the militarized men the right to rewards, military medals and orders, and the right to enjoy the military pension law benefits.

SUDAN

Numayri Addresses Masses in Southern Region

JN311552 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Waw, 31 Dec (SUNA) — President Numayri delivered a speech here today to the masses of Bahr al-Ghazal Region at the regional people's assembly in Bahr al-Ghazal. At the beginning of his speech, the president greeted the southern region where the promising land and strong men exist. He asserted that the south represents the country's reserves, its human wealth, and its hope for the future. He said that the entire homeland believes that the south embodies the promising, shining future of Sudan which is rich with money, men, resources, and wealth.

President Numayri said: This meeting takes place in Waw, which was neglected by colonialism intentionally and by successive governments shortsightedly. We meet here today where Waw has become a big city due to stability, peace, and tranquillity.

President Numayri asserted that the southern provinces have recently witnessed a continued dialogue on decentralization as a method of rule in southern Sudan, as happened in the north, which witnessed a similar dialogue. He said: The May Revolution, which declared the 9 May statement, is still the same important revolution. He noted that the revolution resorted to democracy, consultation, and participation. He reiterated that the revolution now utilizes the same methods to achieve the real will of the masses, whatever this will may be. He asserted that the revolution is the heart of the masses.

President Numayri called on the People's Assembly members from the Bahr al-Ghazal Region to feel and express the masses' will in their legislative and executive institutions, as well as in their serious work to implement and obey this will. The president asserted that the representatives of the people are their servants who achieve the people's will and objectives.

In his speech today, the president asserted that the years of confusion and fragmentation will perish if the homeland's sons agree on the same objectives and methods. He said: The conflict over personal interests has gone, and the conflict for the sake of the homeland has begun, and the era of divisions has gone, and the era of closing ranks and production has begun. The president called for intensifying efforts and exploiting resources not for the interest of the region only, but also for the sake of the entire homeland.

President Numayri said: The goals of production require stability in order to confront all forms of conspiracies. He called on the representatives to lie in wait for the elements of sabotage and fragmentation, to destroy the traitors, and to support the masses in their honest confrontation.

The president noted that the movements of the outlaws in the region are under control. He asserted that the homeland's arena

will not be an easy morsel for neighbors who do not respect neighborliness and who submitted to the big powers that move them the way they like. These neighbors will not receive any honor.

The president said: The continuous guidance, the honest moves, the real and effective confrontation, giving facts to the masses, and depending on these masses to form a strong front are the bases for the national course and action.

Addressing the Bahr al-Ghazal People's Assembly members, President Numayri said that the People's Armed Forces, the unified political organizations, the Sudanese Socialist Union, the regional government that is represented by the executive body, the regional people's assembly that is represented by the regional legislative body, women and youth organizations, and other revolution branches are vanguards of the real confrontation against the forces of treachery and treason. He said that they are entities that believe in their homeland and revolution and are the principal base for the masses' moves and their constant endeavor to preserve their gains and achievements. He explained that effective coordination among the revolution branches is the first sound step toward thwarting the conspiratorial scenario and its malignant dimensions and objectives that oppress belief, humiliate dignity, fragment the homeland, destroy its unity, and threaten its security.

John Wool, speaker of the regional people's assembly, delivered a speech at the beginning of the session in which he affirmed that President Numayri's visit to Bahr al-Ghazal Region came on the occasion of independence day and Christmas. He affirmed that the region's masses believe in the principles of the May Revolution and adhere to its achievements. He said that the country is enjoying stability, peace, and national unity which previous governments had failed to achieve. He said that this prompted the world to recognize President Numayri's leadership and convinced the international community that Sudan is capable of solving its issues and problems and of overcoming all that contradicts the revolution's principles. He said that the assembly is coordinating with the other bodies to enlighten the masses in order to preserve stability and security and combat outlaws and the country's enemies.

The region's governor, Dr Lawrence Wool, welcomed President Numayri, affirming the masses' rallying around his leadership. He affirmed that this visit refutes the tendentious statements of the country's enemies that President Numayri did not want to visit the region out of fear for his life. He said that this visit is the real response to those who make these tendentious statements.

Numayri Delivers Independence Day Speech

JN31 2007 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1810 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Juba, 31 Dec (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has greeted the Sudanese people on the anniversary of Sudan's independence — the day of freedom, dignity, loftiness, and glory, reminding them of the relentless struggle the loyal men have carried out through the years until the time came when the banner of freedom waved in the beloved skies of the homeland

and independence came to embody the loyalty of the sons of the homeland on every inch. In a speech here this evening, President Numayri greeted the strugglers who had offered their lives for the sake of Sudan's independence.

He said: Peace, greetings, and immortality to 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mahdi, 'Ali Mirghani, Isma'il al-Azhari, Muhammad Ahmad al-Murdi, Admiral 'Abdallah Khalil, retired, (Both Dieu), (Sersio Ero), and their comrade strugglers, the symbols of independence, struggle, loftiness, and glory. He also greeted all those who lived the years of struggle, sorrow, division, and fragmentation, whose sparks were ignited by the colonialists before they left the country, and those who struggled against division and fragmentation who confronted the heinous war which broke out among the brothers — a war which continued for 17 years and brought destruction and dispersal.

President Numayri stressed that the 1969 May Revolution was the genuine embodiment of the Sudanese people's aspirations for the true meanings of freedom and the enhancement of the full tenets of self-liberation and independence. It has dealt with the negative aspects of victory and with man's faith and determination. President Numayri said that these negative aspects were what had emerged when Sudan was seeking freedom and independence.

President Numayri referred to what the May Revolution has undertaken to achieve the sublime national objectives such as ending the fighting and the disputes which lasted more than two decades. He explained that the revolution's only option is to spread peace throughout the homeland, thus entrenching the basis of national unity which constitutes the first pillar for resurgence, development, and progress in Sudan.

President Numayri spoke about construction efforts aimed at attaining a standard of living that is in harmony with the tenets of freedom and independence and that this is taking place now that peace and security prevails in the homeland. He added that Sudan must proceed on this course to lay down the foundations for an effective participation in government, sound decision-making, and tackling the homeland's problems on the basis of the people's authority and their right to exercise democracy and lay down the bases of decentralization in government that have been translated by the establishment of bodies for regional and local rule in parallel with the other constitutional bodies which continue to practice constructive dialogue and fruitful consultations.

President Numayri explained that nature has imposed on Sudan and its people more burdens and responsibilities and that the drought in some African countries has had a direct effect on Sudan, which is welcoming tens of thousands of refugees from fraternal neighboring countries. He stressed that Sudan, which enjoys all the components of a modern state and which respects the principle of good neighborliness and international conventions, will always respect them and abide by them. He said that the bond which exists between Sudan and its neighbors is a deep-rooted bond of brotherhood and goodneighborly relations substantiated by the intermingling of the tribes on both sides of the borders. He said: These facts oblige us to take care of these refugees and to work quickly for securing and facilitating their return to their countries.

The president called on fraternal Uganda, Zaire, Chad, Central Africa, and Ethiopia to participate in consultations regarding the refugees in order to guarantee them an honorable life in their homelands. Thus, efforts and money would be saved to face the big issues in this part of Africa.

The president urged the fraternal and friendly countries in the world, as well as the international institutions and organizations, to help in confronting the disasters of famine from which the refugees in Sudan are suffering. Sudanese people in the areas of drought and desertification are also suffering from these disasters. The president noted that Sudan has exerted its utmost within the limits of its capabilities to provide a life for the refugees. He noted that Sudan's efforts alone cannot tackle the problems of all those refugees moving to Sudan.

President Numayri reiterated his appeal to exert local, regional, and international efforts to confront the catastrophes of the drought which will continue into the future.

The president called on all sons of the southern provinces to participate in the comprehensive democratic dialogue — the direct, free, effective, and national dialogue. The president's call is especially directed to those who want to impose opinion by force. The president warned those people that their subservience to Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi will only lead to destruction, and that the money of terrorist and rancorous Al-Qadhafi and his revolution will not benefit them. The president said: Those people must know that agency will not affect a people who believe in their homeland and soil and that the Sudanese people will not submit.

President Numayri called on the citizens in the three southern provinces to resort to dialogue. He also called on the intellectuals in the southern provinces and everywhere to organize continuous campaigns and open symposiums in order to strengthen the comprehensive national dialogue. He also called on all sons of the south abroad and on all political and popular organizations to contribute to this dialogue.

The president defined the comprehensive framework of the dialogue. He said that the framework is based on clear and acceptable bases which embody the essence of democracy and provide the real principles of just rule — the principles which contain sufficient guarantees and radical solutions of all problems and hurdles. The president pointed out these bases: There will be no negotiations over the principles of the national unity agreement because it is a genuine basis for the principle of decentralization. There will be no deviation from the democratic method which is represented by regional rule because it is the basic guarantee for expanding comprehensive national participation in the authority. There will be no deviation from the revolution's constitutional institutions which are the genuine democratic method to express supporting or opposing opinions. The only option is the will of the people who selected the presidential system as a safe way to achieve genuine democracy.

President Numayri refuted the claims that the reason for the differences with those who deviated from the nation's consensus is the application of the Islamic law and the other claims that say that the reason for the differences is the divisions in the south.

The president said: We bring nothing new when we assert the need to spread peace and sovereignty and good values. These are the essence of the heavenly religions. Christianity and Islam agree on the human values which organize human life. The president said: Out of the conviction in these sublime principles, the entire Sudan celebrated — as it used to — Christ's birthday. The Muslims also participated with the Christians in the celebration of the new year which coincides with the celebrations on the glorious independence day. The president pointed out that celebrations will take place during January on the golden jubilee of establishing the first Islamic state in Sudan.

The president said: Thus, Sudan asserts to the entire world that its people are the owners of religions and values, that religion is not imposed on anyone in Sudan, and that having different religions does not mean that the Sudanese people differ. The Sudanese people work to entrench the principles and values of religions in order to create an individual who believes in God and who is capable of building a unified homeland.

The president said that those who claim that regionalism [al-taqsim] in the south is the cause of differences are wrong. He said regionalism means entrenching democracy, broader participation in government, and expanding the rule of the people. He said these principles were championed by the people of the south through their constitutional institutions and that he had no choice but to respond to the majority and to the recommendations and desires of the constitutional bodies. He added that the experiment of regionalism will be subjected to study and evaluation and that citizens will be sounded on whether it should remain or be changed in the future. He said the experiment will be prolonged to give everyone the opportunity of giving their opinion so that a final decision will be made on it, thus serving the national interests and the citizens through people's direct participation in the government.

President Numayri said that deviation from the path of dialogue through the constitutional institutions, the regional governmental bodies, and the local governments is a deviation from the national consensus and a flouting of the people's rights to exercise their authority. He noted that other methods to the contrary are destructive methods that will ruin the value of freedom and democracy. Hence the state's rejection of attempts to impose opinions by force and of methods that lead to division and fragmentation. He pointed out that he appealed for dialogue, affirming that it is the best means for peace, safety, and stability. He said: He who accepts dialogue as a means to solve differences has accepted strength and firmness for the homeland, and he who accepts otherwise has agreed to remain a tool for fragmentation and dispersion. He added that those who condone the aggravation of differences among the people are the enemies of the homeland who seek to destroy the gains that have been realized and those that will be realized soon.

The president asserted that Sudan will always remain united and that the Sudanese people will remain one people. It will be a Sudan of revolution and development, a Sudan of heroes and martyrs, and a Sudan of reconciliation regardless of the difference among the people. Sudan will remain the graveyard for all those invaders who covet its wealth and resources. The president reiterated the need to strengthen the principle of dialogue

because it is in the nation's interest. He also stressed the need to protect the Sudanese people and their gains against plots by agents, traitors, and outsiders regardless of the cost.

The president made some observations on certain shortcomings in the experiment in local government in southern Sudan. He said that these negative aspects have expanded until they affected the lives of the people in the southern regions and we have no other alternative but to work in order to overcome them. He said: We have ascertained that some officials in the southern regions continue to work to further their own interests, thus allowing tribal interests to replace the national ones. Corruption and nepotism were rife and personal differences grew to the extent that they affected our national security, Numayri added.

The president asked the brother governors in the southern regions to work speedily to check this phenomenon because the homeland is for everyone and all must benefit. He asked them to immediately start tackling these problems and to plan small development projects as soon as possible. He also asked them to conduct careful studies to support and revive the current projects in the south.

The president asked the directors of banks in general and the Islamic banks in particular to revise their conventional methods of trade. He said these methods should change and the banks must effectively participate in the development projects in all regions, particularly the weak southern regions. He said these banks must contribute toward implementing our projects. Numayri said: We want this contribution, for which we had approved the establishment of these banks. Let these banks proceed in harmony with us so that all will benefit.

He urged the governors of the southern regions to quickly reopen closed schools and indicated that they should hasten to implement the urgent development plan to provide free, decent job opportunities for the sons of these regions.

On the basis of the general framework of the concept of public responsibility, Numayri said that those who harbor hostility for the revolution and the homeland when they are relieved of their positions must abandon this attitude because belief in the homeland and the revolution's principles cannot be traded with a position of responsibility.

He said: We were eager to point this out from the start because a number of those who held positions of responsibility in the south and north are expressing open hostility toward the government and revolution and fueling sedition, thus joining those who took up arms against the unity of the homeland. He added: By calling on those to observe the need to shoulder the national responsibilities, I only seek national interest which cannot be attained without loyalty and commitment to this cherished homeland.

In his speech today, Numayri said that in order to supplement the success of our plans to achieve stability, security, and peace through establishing future development projects that will provide a decent life for the citizens, and out of our concern to implement these plans in an ideal manner, we have decided to alter the style of work in the economic field to ensure stability and progress. He pointed out that he will personally supervise this and

extend complete support and necessary facilities to promote the construction projects in this cherished part of our homeland and throughout Sudan in harmony with our ambitions and aspirations for prosperity and a secure, decent life.

President Numayri affirmed his rejection of all attempts to impose views through the use of force and any methods that only lead to fragmentation and disunity. He affirmed that dialogue is the only way to solve problems and to achieve peace and security. His excellency specified the principles, which cannot be disputed or bargained with, on which a comprehensive dialogue must be based. He indicated that some negative aspects had accompanied the current experiment of rule in the southern regions. His excellency mentioned these aspects and affirmed his determination to overcome them.

In his independence day speech, his excellency touched on the issue of refugees who flooded into Sudan and its effect on the country. He explained that Sudan's efforts are incongruent with the massive number of refugees. He appealed to the neighboring countries to carry out consultations on this issue in order to secure a decent life for the refugees in their countries. He also appealed to world countries and international organizations to contribute the necessary aid to tackle the suffering of refugees and the threat to the Sudanese in areas of drought and desertification. He also stressed the need to combine efforts to confront future drought calamities.

President Numayri stressed the need to find solutions to all of Sudan's problems on the basis of deep-rooted Sudanese values and virtues and the need to have sincere intentions. This is in order to convince the world that the Sudanese people are capable of overcoming its unnatural crises and all difficulties, obstacles, and challenges.

He affirmed that the Sudanese people, who shaped their independence and affirmed their pride, are capable of maintaining it and are capable of progress and pursuing the march toward dignity and prosperity. He said: We are a people who have a glorious history and the descendants of people who were characterized by patience, wisdom, and courage. We are the sons of those who did not tolerate conspiracies or give in to obstacles. He added: We have to preserve these values so that future generations may base their actions on them. We must strive to keep Sudan united, secure, and stable. He indicated that this is the trust of history and that neglecting it is treason and that abandoning it or bargaining with it is high treason.

Concluding his speech, he congratulated all the Sudanese people on their national day coinciding on 1 January and wished that Sudan always remain united and that the people's revolution will always be victorious.

President Numayri arrived in the capital of the equatorial region, Juba, which lies 1,200 km south of Khartoum, this afternoon amid a massive official and popular welcome. He arrived from Waw, the capital of the Bahr al-Ghazal Region, where he paid a visit, which lasted several hours, and during which he addressed the masses of the region and the Sudanese people through the regional people's assembly there.

Numayri Issues Decision Forming SSU Bodies

JN311746 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1431 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Dec (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) president, issued decision No 98 of the 5th SSU session, amending Article No 32 of the rules to read as follows:

Formation of the Executive Bureau and the General Secretariat:

32. A. The Executive Bureau is composed of:

1. The SSU president.
2. Thirty members selected by the SSU president and approved by the central leadership.
3. Thirty members selected by the central leadership from a list nominated by the SSU president.

32. B. The General Secretariat is formed by a decision from the SSU president in the following manner:

1. The SSU secretary general.
2. Secretaries of the specialized committees.
3. Chairman of the People's Assembly committee [as received].
4. Secretary of the national council for friendship, solidarity, and peace.
5. Director general of the political and strategic studies' institute.
6. Chairmen of the group organizations [al-munazzamat al-fi'awiyah] and secretaries of the mass organizations on the central level.

Numayri Decorates Army Paratroopers in Equatoria

JN011943 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1804 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Juba, 1 Jan (SUNA) — Field Marshal Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the republic, defense minister, and commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, has praised the officers, NCO's and men of the paratroop company that inflicted heavy losses on the outlaws' forces when it clashed with them on the Bor-Juba road in Equatoria, southern Sudan, recently. This came when the president received the soldiers at the military command of Equatoria. The president spoke to them on the significance of martyrdom under the banner of there is no God but God. He said that these men have proved that the Sudanese soldiers continue to be tough, patient, and brave, able to work in all places and under all circumstances.

Numayri said that the paratroop company inflicted immense losses on the outlaws and that its losses were negligible compared to its great military achievement. He said that he was following the operation from Khartoum. He spoke about the circumstances that made Sudan a target for its enemies. He pointed out that some Sudanese who fell victim to deception and treason perpetrated by certain states that envy our stability and progress are working to ruin the homeland and fragment our national unity. He affirmed that the Sudanese citizens will defend their territory and national unity. The president declared that he has approved granting medals and decorations to all those who participated in the operation and to all those who were martyred. The president issued a republican decree decorating 3 officers with the medal of courage, second class; 3 other officers with the badge of

courage first class; and 82 NCO's and men with the badge of courage, second class, for their sacrifices and courage in defending the homeland and protecting its national unity. The decree said that the medals and badges were given in appreciation of their heroism and sacrifices in fighting plotters and in defending Sudan's security and stability. It said that these decorations are an honest recognition of their service to the dear homeland.

The president has also decided to give 1-month basic salary for every soldier in the Armed Forces of Equatoria.

President Numayri had earlier met with the military commander of Equatoria and was briefed on the security situation in the region.

Vice President Calls for Muslim-Christian Amity

JN311506 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Dec (SUNA) — Vice President Joseph Lago today addressed the citizens on independence day. Lago congratulated the people of Sudan and drew the citizens' attention to the president's repeated appeals for dialogue in order to reach a settlement of the country's problems, especially in the south. Lago said that he was speaking in his capacity as a Christian who is sincere in his Christianity. Lago noted that regardless of differences among brothers, we must have a chance to forgive and make peace, turn a new leaf, and begin a new fraternal march.

Lago pointed out that Islam is a noble religion, replete with virtues that exist in Christianity.

In conclusion, the vice president called on the citizens to look for ties that bind the Muslims and Christians and to strengthen these ties in order to bolster national unity and preserve the great gains of the glorious May Revolution.

TUNISIA

Prime Minister Mzali on Domestic, Maghreb Affairs

PM311501 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Dec 84 p 7

[Interview with Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali by 'Irfan Nizam al-Din in Tunis — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Nizam al-Din] There is a so-called succession struggle. What do you have to say about it?

[Mzali] By God I do not think about it. The matter is really simple. The head of state chooses the government and prime minister he trusts. That is his prerogative under the Constitution. As far as I am concerned there is no problem.

[Nizam al-Din] It has recently been alleged that there is an inclination to amend the Constitution.

[Mzali] That is not true at all. While others make allegations we are implementing giant projects. As you know life is short but

industry lives on. We work. Talk to me if you like about dams and water and housing projects. There is no problem regarding what you have said. Like death I do not think about it.

[Nizam al-Din] I am only conveying what I have heard. A person who reports heresy is not a heretic. This matter should concern you because it has been rumored that a vice president will be appointed, or something like that. Is there such a possibility?

[Mzali] Neither the president nor anyone else in the government has contemplated such a thing. It has only occurred to those who fish in troubled water. However, if the president decides to take such a step it would be welcome. There would be no problem and I say that there is no such problem in Tunisia.

Tunisia's problem is not who heads the state but how many work opportunities have been made available to the public, how much wheat produced, and how many new houses built.

[Nizam al-Din] Incidentally, prime minister, how is President Bourguiba's health?

[Mzali] Now it is not bad, thank God. He was tired in November. The doctors have been cautious and decided that he should continue to rest and extended his recuperation period.

[Nizam al-Din] It has been reported that there are differences, tension, or estrangement between the prime minister and some ministers. How true are these reports?

[Mzali] (Nervously) I would not allow myself to ask a French or an Arab statesman about his differences with others or to say: Are there any differences between you and your wife or your brother? Differences are a usual occurrence within the same family. One would say one way is better than the other. Understanding is the solution. Life is full of contradictions and problems. I sometimes have two minds myself. This only confirms that there are people who can do nothing except spread rumors.

[Nizam al-Din] Sir, it is a private matter when there is disagreement between a man and his wife, but when an official disagrees with another it becomes a public matter of interest to everyone not only at home but also abroad. I would just like to know your answer.

[Mzali] (Still nervous) Why do you concern yourself with that? Go to the Tunisian people and find out what achievements have been made. Why should you worry about differences between one minister and another? Is there a government on earth free from differences? If there are differences they are in the general interest and over the best ways of serving the public.

[Nizam al-Din] Allow me, prime minister, to continue to ask the questions asked abroad. For example, there are those who claim that there are French military bases in southern Tunisia. Is that true?

[Mzali] No, and if you want me to swear on the holy Koran I will do so here in front of you.

[Nizam al-Din] Are there any fears of foreign interference?

[Mzali] There are no fears and there is no danger. Throughout Tunisian history dating back to Carthage and to this day our problems have been self-inflicted. I fear nothing from abroad.

[Nizam al-Din] Prime minister, let us talk a little about the Arab Maghreb. There are rumors that Tunisia is no longer neutral and that there are several blocs at present. What is your opinion?

[Mzali] We are opposed to the policy of blocs and we regret the prevailing situation in the region. With inspiration from President Bourguiba we are trying to bring the brothers together and to turn Tunis into a suitable venue for a meeting of representatives of the five Arab Maghreb states in the next few months for talks and consultations, even if the results are modest. The meeting could be held at the level of foreign ministers, advisers, or even heads of state. That would be a positive step.

[Nizam al-Din] Are we to understand from this that there is a Tunisian initiative to mediate between Morocco and Algeria? The situation there is rather tense.

[Mzali] It is too early to use that word but there are fraternal informal talks and contacts.

[Nizam al-Din] Do you believe that the recent Mauritanian developments — in other words the coup d'état — have changed the balances of power in the Arab Maghreb?

[Mzali] As the president said, we consider them to be Mauritanian internal affairs. The statements made by the new Mauritanian officials indicate that they are committed to the decisions made by the former government.

[Nizam al-Din] Is it true that there is some estrangement between Tunisia and Morocco?

[Mzali] Our relations are good. Perhaps more contacts are needed between the two prime ministers or other ministers. I do not think that there is estrangement. It is uncalled for.

[Nizam al-Din] Bearing in mind the recent developments relating to the Sahara problem, could you tell us what position Tunisia is taking on that issue?

[Mzali] Our aim is to bridge the views and bring the two sides together. To succeed in that we should not, for the time being, disclose our views. Our aim is to establish contacts aimed at solving the problem.

[Nizam al-Din] It has recently been reported that during his recent visit to Tunisia, Italian Prime Minister Craxi told you that he intends to present an initiative for the settlement of the Palestinian problem as soon as he takes over as EEC chairman next month. Do you expect such an initiative, and, if so, when?

[Mzali] Craxi did say that in his talks with us, but on condition that the Arabs or Palestinians come up with new and specific ideas to justify new moves by the EEC. An Arab summit conference would be beneficial and could provide the basis. We could perhaps consider the Fes plan backed up by the international resolutions and present all these to the EEC and the big powers.

[Nizam al-Din] Is there anything new in Tunisia's position on the question of Egypt's return to the Arab fold?

[Mzali] We are awaiting the [Arab] summit conference.

We are people of principles and we cannot make a unilateral decision.

WESTERN SAHARA

Attacks Reportedly Kill 44 Moroccan Soldiers

*LD312233 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] Western Sahara — There were several attacks by the Saharan People's Liberation Army between 22 and 28 December along the Moroccan defense lines.

Some 107 Moroccan soldiers were put out of action and 44 of them were killed.

AFP Report on Attack

PA020353 Paris AFP in English 0344 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Text] Algiers, Jan 2 (AFP)— Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas fighting to wrest the Western Sahara from Morocco killed 44 Moroccan troops and injured 60 in an attack yesterday, a Polisario communique said here Tuesday.

The attack, [words indistinct] to the communique, lasted four hours. It took place in the [name indistinct] area, in the southwest of the territory, formerly Spanish Sahara.

The statement added that a fuel depot was set on fire and that 11 mortars were destroyed, along with 12 heavy machine guns and 15 vehicles.

The admission of the Saharan Arab Democratic [words indistinct] for which Polisario is fighting, to the Organisation of African Unity at its 1984 summit conference in Addis Ababa led Morocco to withdraw from the organisation.

DJIBOUTI

French Defense Minister Meets With President

EA311854 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Summary] "Military cooperation between the Republic of Djibouti and the French Government was among the major issues discussed this morning during a meeting between the president of the Republic of Djibouti, Hassan Gouled Apidon, and the visiting French defense minister, Charles Hernu." Hernu's visit will last 2 days. The talks between Apidon and Hernu lasted 2 hours. Hernu will join the French forces tonight for the New Year celebration.

Hernu Ends Visit, Departs

EA011857 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] French Defense Minister Mr Charles Hernu left the country this afternoon at the end of his 48-hour working visit. Mr Charles Hernu made a courtesy call this morning on Mr Yusuf Ali Shirdon. The reception took place at the defense headquarters.

ETHIOPIA

EPLF Representative on Upcoming Government Attack

GF011532 Doha QNA in Arabic 1345 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Jan (QNA) — Osman Mohamed Omar, representative of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) in the Gulf region, based in Abu Dhabi, has announced that the Ethiopian forces are preparing for a new military attack against the Eritrean revolution during 1985 as part of Ethiopia's hostile policy against the Eritrean people who are fighting for their right to self-determination.

In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi, Osman Mohamed Omar today said that about 20,000 Ethiopian soldiers have begun to arrive in Eritrea to prepare for this new attack at the time when the Ethiopian rulers are placing obstacles to aid from international bodies for the drought-stricken people. He said Ethiopia has rejected a proposal by the EPLF for a cease-fire to secure the passage of these humane groups through the EPLF's positions. It also rejected a call by the European Parliament to stop fighting and negotiate with the Eritrean revolution to secure relief for Eritreans.

Reportage on Eritrean-Government Fighting

Asmara Garrisons Attacked

EA291559 Mogadishu International Service in English 1200 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] According to a communique issued by the Eritrean peoples liberation fighters office in Mogadishu, the EPLF have carried

out a concerted attack on six Ethiopian garrisons around the Eritrean capital, Asmara.

The communique issued by the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front [EPLF] office in Mogadishu said that the EPLF fighters had launched an attack on 2 December on garrisons in (Bonyso), (Edason), (Ende Sows), (Alikesanaf), (Adi Hasafa), and (Maliyu Suhufan). According to the statement, 121 Abyssinian soldiers were killed and 49 wounded. Ten soldiers and 52 assorted weapons were captured and remnants of the enemy troops were forced to abandon their positions. The communique also said that in coordination with the military operation, the freedom fighters had also bombarded Asmara airport.

Similar operations were launched by the Eritrean peoples liberation fighters against the Ethiopian forces on December 22 when 35 Ethiopian soldiers were killed and 24 assorted weapons seized.

EPLF Claims 91 Killed

EA011127 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Fighters of the EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] attacked an enemy force from Adi K'eyih, [name indistinct], and Zela Ambesa moving towards (Tsorona), inflicting heavy casualties and forcing it to retreat. In the fighting the day before yesterday from 0700 to 1300, our heroic fighters killed 91 enemy soldiers, wounded 42, and captured 28. Our heroic fighters also captured 51 light weapons, 2 RPG's, 2 Brens, 2 pistols, and 1 PRP-77 radio.

6 Government Camps Seized

GF021018 Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Jan (QNA) — An Eritrean official has announced that on 29 December the forces of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front seized six camps belonging to the Ethiopian Army near the Eritrean capital, Asmara, on the main road leading to Addis Ababa, following a vicious 7-hour battle.

Osman Mohammed Omar, representative of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front in the Gulf region, told the QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi that in this battle, the Ethiopian Army suffered 223 dead or wounded and 12 of its members were captured. In addition, 59 machineguns of different types and a large quantity of bombs and ammunition were seized. He pointed out that the front's forces shelled the airport of the capital, Asmara, on the same day in order to prevent the Ethiopian forces from bombing the villages close to the battle area.

SOMALIA

Forces Repulse Ethiopian Attack, Kill 200

EA021206 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Text] Reports reaching us from the Somali Defense Ministry say that enemy Abyssinian forces launched an attack yesterday

morning at 0600 on the defenses of Balambal in the Somali Democratic Republic. During the attack 200 enemy soldiers were killed and many others wounded.

The provocative attack, which was bravely repulsed by the Somali forces, which were dug in defensive positions, saw the enemy suffer heavy losses. They lost two tanks, and three others were badly damaged. They also lost one jeep, which was burnt out, and two heavy field guns.

The attack lasted from 0600 to 1400. Four Somali soldiers were killed and 14 others were wounded.

DFSS Chairman Assails Government Agreement

EA312322 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Interview with Chairman of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad by Radio Halgan announcer 'Abd al-Rashid Adan — live]

[Excerpts] [Adan] We are lucky to have with us tonight the chairman of Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS], Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad. We would like to question him on several matters affecting Somalia, especially the Siad regime's agreement with apartheid South Africa, the so-called election General Siad Barre is organizing in Somalia, and other matters touching on the armed struggle of the Somali opposition forces to rescue the Somali nation. If I may start my questions, Mr Chairman, [title spoken in English] the first is about Gen Siad Barre's regime in Mogadishu recently having entered into an agreement with apartheid South Africa, which damages the nationhood of Somalia and Africa in general. What can you say about this agreement, which the world has been discussing?

[Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad] In December 1984, the BBC, in its "Newsreel" program, confirmed that the agreement existed and that Siad Barre's regime had already received weapons, including artillery. The same information was also printed by the South African newspaper *THE STAR*, published in Johannesburg.

It has also been recently confirmed that a high-level delegation from apartheid South Africa visited Somalia in the past week. This delegation also held official talks with the fascist regime of Mohamed Siad Barre. In order to strengthen the earlier agreement, they also entered into another illegal and unholy agreement. Under these agreements South African airways, which was banned from Somali airspace and airports, will now be allowed to overfly Somalia and land at Somali airports. The agreement also states that the earlier promises by South Africa

to give military and economic aid to the fascist regime of Siad Barre will be further strengthened and increased.

These agreements that the Siad Barre regime entered into with the terror regime of South Africa totally contradict the freedom and dignity of the Somali public, of Africa as a whole, of those people who the terror regime and apartheid South Africa oppress and who are our brothers in South Africa and Namibia, and the peoples of the world who love peace, honor, and independence.

It is illegal and horrible and shows that our dignity and sovereignty have once again been sold — having been sold earlier when Somalia, once famous for honor, dignity, and observance of human rights, was made party to the treacherous Camp David agreement by Siad Barre, and when the regime sold Somali territory to the American Government and gave America military bases, like the one in Berbera.

This new treacherous agreement between the fascist regime of Siad Barre and apartheid South Africa, under which the latter's commercial airlines have been given landing rights at Somali airports and rights to overfly Somalia, is a new, horrible, and treacherous agreement which can lead to the use of Somali airports by South African military aircraft against our neighboring African countries, particularly those in East Africa. Kismayo port could be used for similar purposes.

I would like to inform the Somali public and the world that the DFSS, which struggles for the salvation and independence of Somalia, strongly opposes and will fight against the illegal and unholy agreement which the fascist regime of Siad Barre entered into with apartheid South Africa, because this agreement violates, as I said earlier, the dignity and sovereignty of the people of Somalia, of Africa as a whole, and of the peace-loving and honorable nations of the world.

Radio Halgan Reports DFSS Units Destroy Base

EA291552 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] On 25 December, commando units from the 15th Gorod Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces, destroyed a (?BM) base belonging to the loyalist troops of General Siad Barre at (Ali Hasan), south of (Dusa Mareb), (Ghel Gudut) region. The commando units destroyed two (?BM)-21's at the base: A (?BM)-21 has 40 multiple rocket launchers, and its rockets can be fired up to 20 km. The commando units also destroyed the ration, ammunition, and medical stores. A fuel depot was also set on fire.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

53 Political Detainees Given New Year Amnesty

AB010810 Paris AFP in English 0727 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Bangui, Jan 1 (AFP) — The military government of Central African Republic said here Monday night it was freeing 53 political detainees in a New Year amnesty. They include the leaders of banned political parties who were placed under house arrest up-country last January for failing to abide by a "political truce" ordered by head of state General Andre Kolingba soon after he took power in September 1981.

Among those freed are Bangui University's former rector Abel Goumba, head of the Ubangui Patriotic Front-Labour Party; Republican Party for Progress leader Henri Maidou, who was the exiled ex-Emperor Bokassa's last premier; Simon Narcisse Bozanga, last prime minister under Gen Kolingba's deposed predecessor President David Dacko; Patrice Endjimoungou, secretary-general of Mr Goumba's party; and Central African Socialist Party leader Tandalet Hozhi Hokito.

A former close aide to Gen Kolingba, Paul Otto, arrested last October, was freed. He had been presidential secretary-general of the ruling Military Committee of National Recovery.

The government also said it has reduced the sentences of those jailed by a special court for an attempted coup in March 1982 — former Interior Minister Colonel Gaston Ouedane, Trade Secretary of State Major Jerome Allam, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Michel-Paulin Bondebol, an ex-battalion commander, and civilians Theodore Bagayombo and Mette Yapende Jean, who were on the Politburo of one-time Premier Ange Patasse's Peoples Liberation Movement.

CHAD

Hissein Habre Delivers New Year Message

AB012058 Ndjamen Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 31 Dec 84

[New Year message to the nation by President el-Hadj Hissein Habre's; on 31 December in Ndjamen — live]

[Text] Chadians: We are treading the threshold of 1985. This is a time for making wishes, a time of festivities, and, no doubt, also a time to review the past year and to ask questions about the coming year. First of all, let us together take a quick and critical look at the year which is drawing to an end. The crucial issue, which is the major preoccupation of all patriots, is no doubt the Libyan aggression as demonstrated by the occupation of half of our country along with the continued existence of criminal subversion and the obstruction of all roads leading to peace. The land of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti is dishonored. Our brothers and sisters who live there are going through atrocious tribulations because they are subjected to the tyranny of the conqueror, if not murdered outright. Elsewhere, the Libyan enemy finances banditry and terrorism to sow sorrow in our homes and increase misery. True to itself, the Tripoli regime has once again demon-

strated to the world its intolerable scorn of the most fundamental rules of conduct in international relations by refusing to respect the Franco-Libyan agreement on the withdrawal of troops, thus denying its own signature. But we are not surprised by this. The Chadian Government expressed its doubts and reservations well before the whole world observed the Libyan default. But this situation edifies us all the more, strenghtens our convictions, and spurs us further on in our determination to recover at all cost the totality of our plundered lands. We are sure to win the final victory.

The year 1984 was also the year for rehabilitation and struggle against the terrible calamities of desert encroachment and drought and their sinister effects, the most dramatic of which is famine. In this connection, the reorganization of the country's socioeconomic fabric in the various sectors, especially agriculture and stockbreeding, industry and commerce, transport and communications, and health and national education received the needed impetus and the results are encouraging. Nevertheless, we are far below the level of acceptable development.

Famine in particular is still present, taking its toll on entire families. Thus while the public authorities solicit emergency assistance, they also place more emphasis on far-reaching measures aimed at revolutionizing our agricultural system. In fact, from now on we must give more emphasis to irrigated crop cultivation over traditional farming, which is so dependent on the rainy seasons that have become increasingly irregular. This is a matter of survival and this is the only chance for Chad to achieve food self-sufficiency. Moreover, this is a perfectly attainable objective in view of our potential in water supply and fertile lands. We must understand that international food aid, which has become so indispensable in the current stage of the drought, cannot be the only panacea against famine. The true solution to this alarming problem lies in the promotion of modern agriculture, with food self-sufficiency as its priority goal. To this effect, we call upon our friendly countries and on international public and private organizations to streamline their assistance in this direction. I also take this opportunity to hail the constant and praiseworthy efforts of our people.

Chadians, one of the significant events of the year 1984 was the creation of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR]. The UNIR, which is the outcome of deliberations of the extraordinary congress of the Command Council of the Northern Armed Forces which, for the occasion, was transformed into a constituent congress, is the historic answer to the call for national unity. As a vanguard revolutionary movement, the UNIR is to be the crucible of the indispensable unity of the sons of Chad, the spearhead and the founder of a new society.

Since its foundation, our movement, which is in its organizational phase, has settled down to the laborious task of establishing all its organs and, at the same time, has embarked on the work of sensitization and mobilization. It is the role and duty of UNIR militants to stand up, to fall in step, to be motivated by the same faith, and to resolutely decide to meet the challenge of destiny, because today's generation, that is, ours, is dedicated to great sacrifices, glorious acts, and great changes. Our struggle is for independence, for defense of territorial integrity, for consolidation of national sovereignty, and for the tenets of freedom, social,

and economic progress. This struggle is worthy of being waged and fully embarked upon.

In the face of our enemies, all our enemies — both those who fight us openly and those who do so indirectly — we must use all the means at our disposal and use all our energies to counter the (?danger). Unfortunately, we know that hand in hand with foreign interests that dream of the disintegration of Chad in order to impose on it their disastrous domination for the benefit of their (?development), there are Chadians who are being manipulated for this unworthy design. To these Chadians we say: Serve no longer those who aim at dividing our people in order to subject them to servitude, to destroy and dominate our country. You have your place in Chad among our people. We are waiting for you with arms outstretched to embrace you so that, together in earnestness, work, solidarity, and enthusiasm, we may build the new Chad. In this troubled world, where selfishness dominates over solidarity and where the arbitrary has the upper hand over justice and lies over the truth, we have to struggle for a united Chad that will be strong internally and (?great) and respected outside.

From the international and regional point of view, the policy of the government of the Third Republic aims at widening the scope of our friendships, developing the quality of our cooperation, promoting understanding, and winning the support of the peace-, justice-, and freedom-loving world with respect to Chad's right to live in peace within its internationally recognized borders.

May the year 1985 usher in more understanding, solidarity, and — why not — more love in the relations between the states, nations, and peoples of the world. For us Chadians, 1985 must bring greater efforts, more decisive successes on the path to peace, rehabilitation, and development.

On behalf of the government of the Third Republic and the UNIR Central Committee, and on my own behalf, I convey to Chad, our dear fatherland, to you Chadians, and to all those who have chosen our country for residence my best wishes for a good and happy new year, a year of great victories, of shining new deals, and of a favorable and brilliant future for Chad. Long live a united, strong, and independent Chad.

Budget Constraints Force Diplomatic Cuts

*AB282245 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT
28 Dec 84*

[Text] The Cabinet meeting held yesterday and today lasted 14 hours during which there were intense discussions. It must be remembered from the outcome of this meeting that in view of the financial difficulties confronting our country, there will be a reduction in our country's diplomatic representation abroad and other measures will be taken in order to bring sanity to public finances.

In this connection — the reduction of diplomatic staff abroad — the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation will have to present a draft recommendation on the reduction of our embassies and other Chadian diplomatic facilities abroad to the government. Mr Soumaila Mahamat, the minister delegate to the Presidency of the republic in charge of information, reports on the Cabinet meeting to Radio Chad:

[Begin recording] Cabinet Meeting Report: An extraordinary Cabinet meeting was held yesterday and today, Friday, 28 December 1984, under the chairmanship of Comrade el-Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic, head of state, and chairman of the Cabinet meeting. The meeting examined for a second time the 1985 draft budget. In his presentation, the minister of finance and equipment briefed the Cabinet on the observations made on the draft budget by the National Consultative Council. The minister submitted for the approval of the Cabinet 23 draft ordinances and decrees aimed at increasing the internal resources of the state so that our needs will be covered by our own means.

After 14 hours of debate and several amendments to the content and format, the Cabinet adopted the 1985 draft budget which presents itself as follows: 15,034,368,115 francs CFA in receipts and 39,846,503,020 francs CFA in expenditure. It is, therefore, because of the financial burden inherent in the number of our diplomatic facilities abroad that the Cabinet requested the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation to present to it as soon as possible a plan to reduce them. The session ended at 1730. [end recording]

BURKINA

Sankara Returns Home After Visit to Ghana

*AB011552 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 1 Jan 85*

[Excerpt] The chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and president of Burkina Faso, Captain Thomas Sankara, returned to Ouagadougou last night at the end of a 48-hour visit to Ghana.

President Sankara Delivers New Year Message

*AB011658 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 1 Jan 85*

[New Year message to the nation by President Thomas Sankara; on 31 December in Ouagadougou — live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow comrades, militants of the people's democratic revolution: Our people, in intimate unison with the peoples of the world, will soon celebrate the arrival of a new year. Our people, who are hardworking, courageous, and worthy; our people, the Burkinabe people, went through the year 1984 with courage and lucidity, a year during which their image was enhanced all over the world through their revolutionary struggle and victories. With imperturbable assurance, the Burkina Faso revolution has imposed itself on the big and small nations of this planet because we defend truth and we are right in doing so with intransigence and determination.

There were numerous plots and intrigues over the past year. They were sometimes fomented at home and often abroad but, to avoid frightening the militants, we preferred to be discreet about these and create an atmosphere of calm trust.

Today, Burkina is a respected partner because it is serious, firm, and honors its commitments. It is with satisfaction that we are realizing slowly but surely that the conscious commitment of the militant [words indistinct]. The revolution is gradually taking root in the minds of people. After the euphoria and the superficial commitment to the revolution, the political situation has become stable and we all have the right to rejoice because it is the result of hard work, perseverance, and our self-sacrifice to place the revolutionary process on a solid foundation.

In these final hours of 1984, it is my right to congratulate you, militants of the people's democratic revolution. I know [words indistinct] the obstacles that each one of you meets regularly; my position enables me to know them well. Because of the pureness and the toughness of this revolution, which we all desired, this revolution sometimes hits you in the most intimate way and this is not easy to accept. What efforts we needed to maintain our steadfast faith in the face of the abandoning of commitment of a father, a brother, or a friend. How many times has the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] not tried the nerves of some of you for refusing to hit blindly in the face of the arrogance and the provocation of the counterrevolutionaries? What can one say

about the ultimate efforts and sacrifices the revolution required you to make objectively and which you, nevertheless, made violently because of the flaws within us all?

Yet, there is more to be done than has been done already. The quality of the happiness for which the Burkina people are aspiring cannot be obtained simply by booting out the 23 years of mediocre neocolonialism. The great battles of the future require a refinement of our arms and methods; more deterrent vigilance is needed to fight those whose intelligence is below average and so are unable to evaluate the consequences of their mad rashness in Burkina.

Rigor, exemplary intransigence, and communicative social behavior should be applied in the execution of orders and tasks; one must exercise tolerance and patience in explanatory work. These are qualities that must be displayed by sincere militants. [passage indistinct]

Comrade militants, revolutionary brothers, the one who believes that Burkina is fertile land and has attempted his August task as a (?sower) will continue to call on all Burkinabe to participate in this great patriotic task as always without [word indistinct]. But we also know that there are and will always be people who will fight us. They are first of all the ones who have had their privileges and ill-gotten property seized from them and returned to their legitimate owners, the people. May the joy of millions of happy people console them, if they still have hearts to be sensitive to the lot of others. Next, there are those whose mechanical and ritual attacks are ridiculous when one knows that they are among the first to frantically dispute the many benefits that the revolution has promised the people and has already provided them land to build on, houses, holidays, reduction in school fees and rents, the cancellation of certain taxes, and so on.

But the revolution will continue to show that it is here to give and not to take, because the people's democratic revolution considers counterrevolutionaries as part of the people, although through their behavior they exclude themselves from the revolution. Lenin was right in saying that a revolution without counterrevolution does not exist and cannot exist.

Fellow militants, today and tomorrow I will see to it that we draw closer together and continue our march forward in 1985. The CNR, the revolutionary government, and I wish you a good and happy 1985. I am addressing myself particularly to all who are suffering from illnesses, hunger, thirst, or ignorance in Burkina and anywhere else on earth; to all who are living without freedom and are struggling to regain it; to all the children in the world who are silently preparing the future of humanity to reconcile itself; to the old people; and to all the Burkinabe men and women. Comrades, let us strive together to make 1985 a year of a greater battle and more resounding revolutionary victory on all the various forms of battlefields in Africa and elsewhere. May 1985 see the widening of our success to the benefit of the people. To the Burkinabe workers, we wish for more productivity in 1985; to the masses, as a sign of understanding of the heavy burden of the crisis, the CNR gives them an end-of year bonus for 1984. Good and happy 1985!

Fellow militants, revolutionary comrades, what does not advance goes backwards. The revolution advances and that is why in the name of the CNR and the revolutionary government, the last measure that I will adopt in 1984 will be to increase the people's gains; the measure is that in 1985 housing will be free in Burkina. Fatherland or death, we will win! [national anthem follows]

Military Personnel Summoned 31 December

*AB311355 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 31 Dec 84*

[Text] We have just received these two communiques [origin of communiques not specified], the first of which says: Elements of the People's Battalion for Rapid Intervention are requested to meet at the National General Secretariat of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution today, 31 December 1984, at 1800 [GMT] precisely.

The other communique says: All comrades of the Popular Democratic Revolution resident in Ouagadougou who have undergone military training are requested to gather at their defense (?committees) today, 31 December 1984, at 1600 precisely, accompanied [words indistinct] of the prefectural security.

GHANA

Rawlings Addresses Anniversary Parade

*AB311548 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] Parades by the Armed Forces, the police, and prisons' service were held in Accra and the regional capitals today to mark the third anniversary of the 31 December Revolution. Addressing the nation at the Independence Square parade in Accra, the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, paid tribute to the Armed Forces and the other security agencies for their selfless service, discipline, loyalty, and patriotism throughout these trying times. He appealed to the service personnel to close their ranks stand solidly united, and team up with civilians to accomplish the noble tasks they have set themselves.

He also called on Ghanaians to remember and honor those courageous citizens who lost their lives in defense of freedom and justice on 15 May and 4 June 1979, 31 December 1981, and 19 June 1983 and all others who have given their lives in diverse ways defending the dignity and sovereignty of Ghana. He added that their supreme sacrifice will not be in vain. Flight Lt Rawlings said the task before the nation is not easy and the PNDC is committed to raising an equitable and progressive social order which will provide food, clothing, and shelter to meet the needs of Ghanaians. He said these commitments can be achieved if Ghanaians exhibit military virtues, of moral, physical and spiritual courage in the face of starvation and discouragement.

Flight Lt Rawlings emphasized the historic truth that it is only when the enemies of the nation both within and outside the country are convinced that the price of salvation will be prohibitively high, [as heard] that Ghana will be able to secure lasting

peace. It is therefore necessary to build the country's military strength through discipline to free Ghana from subversive threats and ensure her rights and prosperity.

Flight Lt Rawlings said this, therefore, requires a strong military posture which cannot be maintained with empty hands but on a strong economic base. That is why the government attaches importance to the economic recovery program which is to improve the productive capacity and arrest the high rate of inflation. The chairman said it is obvious that the measures necessary to achieve these aims will be hard but I believe we can achieve the economic progress we desire for ourselves and our children through loving but dedicated work. Chairman Rawlings said Ghanaians would have to salvage the country through their own strength since friends will not be keen to help them if they do not make determined efforts to save it themselves. He made it clear that it is only when Ghana is strong that she will deserve strong friends.

He called on Ghanaians to cut away all old counterproductive habits. They must also reject selfish motives and work together as a team. Referring to the 1979 overthrow of the then military regime by a section of the Armed Forces, Flight Lt Rawlings said that action against the abuse of power was an act of great sincerity and self-criticism. What took place 3 years ago today was the culmination of the spirit of 4 June 1979. The chairman said when the military took over the administration in 1981, it decided to share power with the masses of the people because of its intense faith and unshakeable trust in Ghanaians and belief in participatory democracy.

On parade were over 2,000 officers and men of the Ghana Armed Forces, the police, and the prisons service and a contingent from the Burkina Faso Armed Forces. There was also a military delegation from Libya. The parade was commanded by the commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, Colonel D.K.K. Klutse. On display were armored cars and other military hardware. After the parade, planes of the Ghana Air Force flew past in salute while ships of the Ghana Navy gave a 21-gun salute. The parade was attended by head of state and chairman of the National Council of the Revolution of Burkina Faso, Captain Thomas Sankara. Thousands of people who watched the parade included members of the PNDC, service commanders, PNDC secretaries, diplomats and chiefs.

Libyan Delegation to Festivities Received by Rawlings

*AB020630 Accra Domestic Service in English 2145 GMT
1 Jan 85*

[Text] The Libyan contingent to the third anniversary celebration of the 31 December Revolution called on the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, at the Castle this evening. The delegation delivered a special message from the Libyan leader, Colonel al-Qadhafi, on behalf of the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the chairman of the PNDC. The message expressed the solidarity and support of the Libyan people for their Ghanaian brothers and sisters and hoped that the bonds of friendship between Ghana and Libya would continue to grow from strength to strength. The message praised the people of Ghana for their courage and

relentless fight for a just and equitable world economic order. It hoped that the peoples of Ghana and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah would continue to fight hand in hand for social justice and world peace.

The Libyan contingent was to have taken part in the parade marking the celebrations but was unable to do so as a result of their late arrival due to technical reasons. While in Accra, the delegation presented a number of gifts to the Ghana Armed Forces on behalf of the Libyan Armed Forces.

Rawlings Congratulates Castro on Cuban Revolution

*AB312337 Accra Domestic Service in English 2145 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, has sent a message of congratulations to President Fidel Castro of Cuba on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, which falls today. He said: As Cubans celebrated and recall memories of this great day, we in Ghana will continue to draw inspiration from the ideals which have guided Cubans in their efforts toward building and consolidating the Cuban revolution under your inspired leadership.

Chairman Rawlings renewed Ghana's commitment and support for the people of Cuba.

Reportage on Visit by Burkina's Sankara

Arrives for Celebrations

*AB310755 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] A parade by contingents of the Armed Forces, the police, and the prison service will take place at the Independence Square in Accra this morning to mark the third anniversary of the December 31st revolution. Similar parades will be held in the regional capitals.

Yesterday the head of state and chairman of the National Council of the Revolution of Burkina Faso, Thomas Sankara, arrived in Accra to take part in the celebrations. He was met at the Kotoka International Airport by the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC) and leader of the revolution, Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings. Others at the airport to meet him were members of the PNDC, secretaries, members of the diplomatic corps, and a large number of Ghanaians and citizens of Burkina Faso resident in Ghana.

Addresses Armed Forces

*AB312240 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Excerpt] Captain Sankara later addressed the members of the Armed Forces at the Accra Sports Stadium. He called on the forces of Ghana and Burkina Faso not to defend only their countries, but also Africa. He said if it becomes possible to walk

to Pretoria to defend the interest of Africans in South Africa, we must do so. Capt Sankara praised the pioneering role of Ghana in helping many African nations to gain independence. He asked Ghanaians not to think that kalabule [profiteering] is the only way to wealth. Capt Sankara cautioned Ghanaians not to allow the intellectuals and reactionary forces who looted the country to come back to power again. He asked the members of the Ghana Armed Forces to go into agricultural production. "One way we can defeat the enemies is by producing to feed the people," Captain Sankara added.

The contingents were later guests at a light refreshments party at the El Wak Stadium in Accra. In an address, the force commander, Major General Arnold Quainoo, described the parade as excellent. He said now that the nation has been brought together, there should be no turning back. He said all that has been achieved within these 3 years was not through empty political rhetorics or speeches, but through discipline, hard work, and loyalty. According to Gen Quainoo, the remarkable achievements could not have been made without the support of civilians and progressive people from outside. He said there are greater challenges in the years ahead and advised the forces not to be complacent. They should rather forge ahead with greater determination. The force commander also asked his men to keep up with the existing unity among them.

Holds News Conference, Departs

*AB011548 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT
1 Jan 85*

[Text] The chairman of the National Revolutionary Council and head of state of Burkina Faso, Captain Thomas Sankara, has flown home after taking part in the celebrations of the third anniversary of the 31st December revolution. Addressing a news conference before his departure, Captain Sankara made a strong appeal to the OAU to release money from the emergency fund for the purchase of food for drought stricken countries in Africa. He said it will be very unfair for the OAU to wait till a committee is set up for the disbursement of the fund whilst people are starving in Mali, Senegal, Niger, Mauritania, and his own country, Burkina Faso. He said his country is in a very bad situation because citizens of worst hit countries keep on arriving there. According to Captain Sankara, in October alone, his country's food deficit was 150,000 tons and this figure has now gone up. Apart from food, their cattle are also dying.

He said imperialist countries have taken advantage of the weather and the food situation and are trying to blackmail his country with food aid. This they try to do by determining how Burkina Faso should vote at the United Nations, the style of its speeches, and the position it should take on international issues. According to Captain Sankara, the revolutionary leadership has rejected such blackmail because by doing so she would be turning against her own people. He was happy that Ghana is not affected by the food problem and asked Ghanaians to show their practical support for the government.

When questioned about the feelings of Army generals and other senior officers while young ones like himself and Chairman Rawlings are at the forefront of political activity in their countries, Captain Sankara said it is easy to take over governments with the bullet but it is not easy to rule with the bullet. He said there are some of these officers who are senior in age and rank and are prepared to identify themselves with the problems of their people. He mentioned Major General Buhari of Nigeria as one of these people who have shown respect not only to the young officers ruling but to his people as well.

Chairman Rawlings in answer to a question said one significant achievement of the 31 December revolution is the democratization of all processes in the country as well as the reawakening of the consciousness of Ghanaians. At the airport to see the Burkinabe leader off were PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] members, secretaries of state, diplomats, and senior government officials.

Burkinabe Commissioners Attend Anniversary Fete
AB312258 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT
 31 Dec 84

[Text] Two regional commissioners from Burkina Faso took part in the anniversary celebrations in Bolgatanga, capital of the Upper East Region. They are Martin Zongo, of the Nayoure-Zongo Province, and Nanema Cyprien, of Boulougou Province. Speaking at the rally, Mr Cyprien said the peoples of Ghana and Burkina Faso are engaged in a common struggle. They should, therefore, pool their resources to ensure total victory. According to Mr Cyprien, Ghana's revolution inspired Burkina Faso to launch hers. He is convinced that the revolutions of the two countries will awaken Africa and shake off all forms of domination. Mr Cyprien called on the peoples of the two countries to unite and fight the common enemies of colonialism, capitalism, corruption, kalabule [profiteering], and other social vices.

In his address, the secretary for the Upper East, J.E. Sekyi, emphasized that it is the collective duty of all Ghanaians to ensure that the revolution achieves high grades next year by helping to eradicate malpractices. He urged Ghanaians to contribute their maximum to ensure a society of love, justice, and equality.

MALI

Traore Reshuffles Cabinet on 31 December
AB311635 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT
 31 Dec 84

[Text] Beginning today, the government of the Republic of Mali is as follows:

Head of government and minister of national defense
 General Moussa Traore
Minister of state for planning
 General Amadou Baba Diarra
Minister of state for industrial development and tourism
 Djibril Diallo

Minister of state for state societies and enterprises
 Oumar Coulibaly
Minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation
 Alioune Blondin Beye
Minister of sports, arts, and culture
 Ahmed Mohamed Ag Hammani
Minister of national education
 General Sekou Ly
Minister of natural resources and animal husbandry
 Mady Diallo
Minister of agriculture
 Lieutenant Colonel Issa Kongoiba
Minister of information and communications
 Mrs Gakou Fatou Niang
Minister of transport and public works
 Mamadou Haidara
Minister of employment and public service
 Modibo Keita
Minister of the interior
 Lieutenant Colonel Abderhamane Maiga
Minister of finance and commerce
 (Dionka) Kaba Diakite
Minister of public health and social affairs
 Dr Mamadou Dembele
Minister of justice and keeper of the seals
 (Django) Cissoko

We will, of course, return to review the composition of this new Malian Cabinet, but for the meantime please note the following changes in the government. The function of coordination of some ministries by ministries of state has disappeared. The former Ministry of Finance and Commerce has been reconstituted and the same thing to some extent applies to the former Ministry of Industrial Development and Tourism. It is also worth noting that the former Ministry of Agriculture has been reconstituted.

Third, some changes have been made in the names of some ministries. The Ministry of Rural Development has become the Ministry of Natural Resources and Animal Husbandry. The Ministry of Labor and Civil Service becomes the Ministry of Employment and Civil Service, with emphasis laid on the problems of employment.

Four ministers have changed portfolios. Gen Amadou Baba Diarra leaves the Ministry of State for Equipment and becomes the minister of state for planning. Oumar Coulibaly leaves the Ministry of State for Economy and Planning — abolished — and becomes the minister of state for state societies and enterprises. Ahmed Mohamed Ag Hammani leaves planning and becomes the minister of sports, arts, and culture. Lt Colonel Issa Kongoiba leaves the Ministry of Justice and becomes the minister of agriculture.

Four new ministers have entered the government. They are Djibril Diallo, who becomes the minister of state for industrial development and tourism; Dr Mamadou Dembele, minister of public health and social affairs; (Dionka) Kaba Diakite, minister of finance and commerce; and, finally, (Django) Cissoko, minister of justice and keeper of the seals.

Five ministers have left the government. They are N'Fagnanama Kone, the former minister of agriculture; Dr Ngolo Traore, the former minister of public health and social affairs; Drissa Keita, who was recently appointed the secretary general to the Economic Community of West Africa and the former finance minister; N'tji Idrissa Mariko, who was the minister of sports, arts, and culture; and, finally, Bandiougou Bidia Doukoure, the former minister of state societies and enterprises.

NIGERIA

Buhari Delivers Budget Speech 31 December

Protection of Agriculture

AB311612 Lagos NAN in English 1548 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — A comprehensive insurance scheme to protect agricultural products against various forms of hazards is to be introduced in 1985, the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, said today in a nation-wide budget broadcast.

Maj Gen Buhari said that lending institutions were also being directed to grant enhanced periods of moratorium on loans for agricultural purposes. The reorganised river basin and rural development authorities, he said, would assume full responsibility for all federally funded agricultural and water resources projects in 1985, adding that they would no longer be involved in direct production, but will concentrate on extension services to individual farmers.

The head of state said that the contribution of Hadejia-Jamare, Chad Basin and Ogun-Shun River Basin Authorities to grain, tomato and water requirements had registered "significant improvements" and that the delay and waste in fertilizer distribution in previous years has been eliminated.

Maj Gen Buhari said that the response to widespread food shortages "has been very good" and that local food production rose by 2 percent in 1984. He said that further support measures were being worked out for big private sector agricultural schemes.

Economic Summit, Foreign Policy

AB311615 Lagos NAN in English 1553 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — An African economic summit meeting will be held in 1985 at the instance of Nigeria, the head of state, Major General Buhari, announced in a nationwide broadcast today.

The first OAU economic summit was held in Lagos on April 28, 1980. The summit discussed, among other things, trade barriers, transportation and communication.

Maj Gen Buhari said that in the new year, the Federal Military Government would continue to play an active and leading role in shifting the focus of the OAU from diversionary political issues to the crucial problems of economic and social development. He

explained that steps were being taken to give effect to Nigeria's commitment to much closer cooperation with its immediate neighbours in the West African sub-region.

He said that while utmost priority would be given to the security of Nigeria's borders, measures would be taken to prevent illegal migrants, smuggling and currency trafficking. "We will continue to work for the achievement of permanent peace in Chad", he said, pointing out that with the admission of SADR into the OAU, "we will watch with keen interest the peace process in the Western Sahara".

On the global scene, he said, Nigeria would remain an active member of the UN, the OPEC and the Commonwealth. Maj Gen Buhari emphasised that the government would continue to strengthen bilateral relations between Nigeria and its major trading partners throughout the world.

Release of Detainees, Amnesty

AB311625 Lagos NAN in English 1558 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — The Federal Military Government has ordered the release of 144 detainees, the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, announced today.

Delivering the 1985 budget in a nationwide broadcast, Maj Gen Buhari said that the government had also granted amnesty to 2,407 prisoners in various parts of the country. He said that the measure was "in furtherance of our policy that no person will be kept in detention longer than necessary".

The head of state said that effort was being made to expedite investigations into the activities of persons still in detention, adding that "those who have a case to answer and on whom investigations have been concluded, will be sent before the special military tribunals promptly".

Maj Gen Buhari urged public servants throughout the country to demonstrate greater awareness of their responsibility to the administration, and improve upon their performance in the new year.

The head of state said, "Commitment, public accountability, integrity and discipline are requirements in the public service on which this administration will not compromise". "This country deserves dedication, loyalty and patriotism from all its people and, in particular, those who have chosen to work in the public service," he added.

Maj Gen Buhari said that the government considered public opinion vital to its success, adding that "this administration is dedicated to service and sacrifice to this country". "We continue to require your cooperation," he added.

External Accounts, Loans

AB311634 Lagos NAN in English 1604 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — Nigerians and Nigerian companies will be allowed from this year to open and operate external accounts in commercial banks within the country, according to the head of state Major General Muhammadu Buhari.

Although the modalities of the scheme were yet to be worked out, the head of state said in his nationwide budget broadcast today that the Federal Military Government took the decision to encourage individuals and companies to repatriate convertible currencies held by them in foreign banks.

He remarked that otherwise, the problem of mobilising such convertible currencies held by Nigerians, both at home and abroad, was likely to remain so long as there was no means of tapping such holding adding that much foreign exchange had been lost because such resources were held with foreign banks.

The head of state announced that the Federal Military Government had also decided to allow the reinvestment of remitable dividends provided such investments were in new companies. He said that to qualify for approved status under the scheme, the investor would have to bring into Nigeria additional new capital up to the value of 50 percent of the amount of dividend to be reinvested.

Maj Gen Buhari said the military administration had throughout last year faithfully met all its external loan obligations, adding that the policy would continue to be maintained in respect of short-, medium- and long-term commitments. He said that steps had already been taken to sort out and reschedule the backlog of trade debts accumulated between 1982 and 1983, saying that the first set of promissory notes worth 200 naira million were issued to uninsured creditors in November after proper reconciliation and verification. He said others would be settled as and when the correct debts were ascertained.

He thanked those he called friendly countries who, he said, had lately offered loans on bilateral basis to support development efforts in very important areas like agriculture, technical education, small-scale industries and rural electrification. "We will carefully consider all offers provided they fit in with our programmes and our national interest," he added.

Move to Abuja

AB311633 Lagos NAN in English 1611 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — Orderly movement to Abuja could commence in 1986, the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, said today in his budget broadcast.

He said that last year was devoted to reassessing the progress made so far in developing the territory and cleaning up the mess perpetrated by the previous civilian administration. "It is our

hope that the steps taken so far will facilitate the development of the city and its environs so that orderly movement could commence in 1986", he said.

He announced that 200 naira million would be provided for the execution of capital projects in the Federal Capital Territory this year from internal sources, and that "an external loan provision of N170 million is also included." He said that in order to ameliorate the acute shortage of high and middle level manpower in the FCDA [Federal Capital Development Authority] a team of "local and outside" managers with considerable experience would be appointed this year.

External Debt

AB311651 Lagos NAN in English 1617 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, disclosed today that the country's external debt as at October 1984 stood at 7.92 billion naira.

He said that the total external loan commitments was N19.04 billion including an estimate of N1.76 billion for the entire trade arrears on open accounts being rescheduled.

Maj Gen Buhari said that of the balance of N14.28 billion, N9.32 billion was entered into by the Federal Government and N4.96 billion by the states.

According to the head of state, N3.50 billion or about 44 percent of the total estimated foreign exchange earnings this new year would be set aside for servicing debt. The head of state said that the 44 percent ratio was very high compared with the 25 percent set aside for debt servicing in 1984.

He announced that there would be no external borrowing for new projects in the new year in order to avoid further deterioration of the debt situation, adding that in strict adherence to the decision, only federal and state projects being financed from approved external loan already signed would be pursued.

Reviewing the governments activities on the repayment of loans, the head of state said that the Federal Military Government had honored all payments on medium- and long-term loans, adding that total payments on principal and interest amounted to N2.632 billion between January and December, 1984. He also said that appreciable progress had been made in refinancing of the outstanding trade arrears which accumulated to the end of 1983.

Maj Gen Buhari added that all imports in 1984 had been and were still being paid on current basis. "We are paying our debts and we are no longer begging anybody" he said.

Taxation, Import Duties

AB311712 Lagos NAN in English 1625 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — A new decree will soon be promulgated to extend deduction of tax at source to such other items of income as royalties, contracts and fees accruing to individual and companies, the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, announced in a nationwide broadcast today.

He said that the decree, to be known as finance (miscellaneous taxation provision) decree, would also increase the existing rate of tax deduction at source from 12 1/2 percent to 15 percent. The decree, which amends both the income tax management act 1961 and company income tax act 1979, would introduce improved earned income relief, he said. The head of state said that as part of its efforts to increase revenue, government had decided to introduce a levy on air tickets for journeys outside Africa and a pre-operation levy on dormant companies.

Maj Gen Buhari said the government had also decided to introduce advance payment of customs duty in the new year. The scheme, according to him, would involve the payment of import duty at the time when letters of credit were to be opened instead of the present practice of collecting import duty when the goods had arrived. "This innovation in our revenue collection system is designed to eliminate as much as practicable, the abuse to which the previous procedure for the collection of customs duty had been subjected", he declared.

The head of state explained that government had accepted for implementation the placing of available foreign exchange in a common pool, to be readily accessible to all banks in servicing their requirements of import licence beneficiaries. He said that for security reasons, government had decided to transfer, with effect from Jan 1, the Department of Customs and Excise from the Federal Ministry of Finance to the federal Ministry of Internal Affairs.

As from the date, the head of state pointed out, regular joint patrols of the nation's borders would be undertaken by immigration officers, the police, the Army and the officers of the Department of Customs and Excise.

Petrochemical Projects

AB311736 Lagos NAN in English 1638 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, said today that the Federal Military Government had allocated 283 million to facilitate the continued execution and completion of projects being undertaken by the NNPC [Nigerian National Petroleum Company].

In a nationwide broadcast on the 1985 budget, the head of state said that the allocation, which represents 5 percent of the Federal Government's capital expenditure, would enhance the implementation of phase one of the petro-chemical projects expected to be on stream in 1986. He stated that the amount would also (?facilitate) the construction of a new 150,000 b/d refinery at Alesa-Eleme near Port Harcourt.

Maj Gen Buhari said that given the current rate of consumption of petroleum products in the country, the new refinery would enable the country, for the first time in its history, to eliminate the need to import finished petroleum products. "The project will generate further employment opportunities for Nigerians and the government will make a net foreign exchange saving of about n170 million per annum," he added.

The head of state said that the liquified natural gas (LNG) project had been revised and that the government would vigorously pursue its implementation. He said that sanity had been restored to bunkering in the country adding: "The losses experienced through the criminal actions of some Nigerians who colluded with foreigners to smuggle petroleum products out of the country for their selfish interests had been virtually eliminated".

Maj Gen Buhari expressed delight over the successful operations of the task force to track down illegal trafficking in oil and its products throughout the country.

1984 Economy Reviewed

AB311748 Lagos NAN in English 1652 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — "We have seized the initiative and we are on the road to recovery". So declared the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, in his address to the nation on the first anniversary of the military administration and the 1985 budget.

Reviewing the performance of the nation's economy in 1984, Maj Gen Buhari said that the country's total real income dropped by less than 1 percent from 27 billion naira in 1983 to n26.9 billion in 1984. This reflected a notable improvement in the performance of the economy in the previous year when there was a fall of more than 6 percent between 1982 and 1983. The improvement was due largely to the satisfactory performance of the petroleum and agricultural sectors, he pointed out.

The contribution of agriculture to the national income rose from n3.95 billion in 1983 to n4.03 billion in 1984, the head of state said. That showed an encouraging increase of 2 percent when viewed against a sharp decline of 8 percent in 1983, he noted.

Revenue from petroleum increased from n5.1 billion in 1983 to n7.8 billion in 1984, Maj Gen Buhari said, bringing about a rise in federally collected revenue from n9.7 billion in 1983 to n11.3 billion in 1984, an increase of 14 percent. Consequently, the retained revenue by the Federal Government rose from n5.1 billion in 1983 to n6.7 billion in 1984, he added.

Maj Gen Buhari explained that because of the increase in debt service, the Federal Government's recurrent expenditure rose from n5.3 billion to n6.1 billion between 1983 and 1984. "In order to redress this unhealthy trend", he continued "the capital expenditure of the Federal Government was reduced from n6.1 billion in 1983 to n3.9 billion between 1983 and 1984". Consequently, he added, the overall budget deficit of the Federal Government was reduced from n6.2 billion to n3.3 billion between 1983 and 1984.

In the external sector, the government's fiscal and administrative measures resulted in a drop in the value of imports from n9.7 billion to n8.6 billion and rise in the value of exports from n7.1 billion to n8.9 billion between 1983 and 1984.

Steel Production, Mining

AB311805 Lagos NAN in English 1708 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — The completion of the Ajaokuta steel project has been extended by two years because of shortage of funds, the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, announced today in a nationwide budget broadcast.

The head of state said that the project, which was expected to have been completed in 1986, had been rescheduled for completion in 1988. He said that funds would be allocated during the year to the projects and its associate projects like the Itakpe iron-ore, construction of the Itakpe-Ajaokute rail link and the dredging of the Niger to meet the revised completion schedule. The head of state said that new steel projects were to remain on the drawing board but that the government would embark upon the production of flat steel to correct what he called imbalance in the product range of the steel plants. He said that government was, therefore, studying the feasibility of incorporating flat steel production into either the Delta or Ajaokuta steel plant with a view to making use of facilities at these plants to cut down investment costs and start-up time.

In the metallic and chemical minerals sectors, the head of state said that efforts would be intensified toward exploitation of tin, lead, zinc, gold and their processing for export market in appropriate [words indistinct].

According to the head of state, coal will also receive more attention for domestic consumption and exportation. He announced a policy shift to involve the private sector in the exploitation of the mineral, adding that government would limit itself to providing the necessary infrastructure and industrial incentives for such investments.

On NEPA [National Electric and Power Authority], Maj Gen Buhari said that its services had improved since the inception of the military administration, adding that the administration would continue to work on a number of projects to further improve these services. He said that in pursuance of the administration's rural development and increased well-being of rural communities, all local government headquarters would be provided with electricity in 1985.

Budget Allocations to Sectors

AB311828 Lagos NAN in English 1719 GMT 31 Dec 84

[All figures as received]

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — The agricultural, water resources and rural development sector will receive an allocation of 1.06 billion naira of a total capital expenditure provision of n5.796 billion in the 1985 budget announced today by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari.

This sum represents over 18 percent of the total capital provisions in the 1985 budget and compares favourably with about n830 million set aside for the sector out of a total capital expenditure of n3.937 billion last year. The government has also allocated n880.1 million, or 7.8 percent of the total recurrent and capital expenditure for 1985, to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology compared with about 15 percent allocated to the Ministry of Education last year when the merger between education and science and technology ministries took place.

Maj Gen Buhari also announced that the petroleum sector would receive n293 million this year to enable it to continue the execution of projects being undertaken by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). This allocation, he said, is about 5 percent of the total capital budget for the year, and less than the n329.9 million, allocated last year.

Transport and aviation was allocated n283.17 million or 4.9 percent of the total capital estimates for 1985, less than the n435.9 million allocated to capital expenditure under than item last year. [sentence as received] The reduced capital provisions for some sectors in this year's budget reflect the policy of the administration to reduce government expenditure in line with falling revenues.

Federally-collected revenue dropped from n10.9 billion in 1982 to n9.7 billion in 1983, although it rose again to n11.3 billion in 1984 following the cost-pruning measures adopted by the government last year.

Maj Gen Buhari said that in spite of this improvement in earnings, the Federal Government's recurrent expenditure rose from n5.3 billion to 6.1 billion between 1983 and last year as a result of increased debt-service obligations. Guidelines issued by the Federal Government in September pointed out that the cost-reduction and debt-repayment policy of the government would be pursued further in the 1985.

The increase in the capital expenditure for the agricultural sector in the 1985 budget reflects the Federal Government's policy, announced last year, which places agriculture at the top of its priority list in the allocation of capital expenditure funds.

Further on Budget Allocations

AB311851 Lagos NAN in English 1736 GMT 31 Dec 84

[All figures as received]

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (NAN) — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, today announced a budget of 11.269 billion naira for 1985 in a nationwide broadcast.

It is made up of recurrent expenditure of n5.475 billion and capital expenditure of n5.796 billion. The budget, based on an estimated federally collectable revenue of n11.237 billion, leaves a shortfall of n32 million.

The Federal Government share of the budget will be n6.772 billion, made up of n1.304 billion accruing to it exclusively from independent sources and n5.458 billion from the federation account, while the state and local governments will be allocated n3.027 billion and n992 million respectively.

The allocation, the head of state said, was in accordance with the existing revenue allocation formula as contained in section 149 (1) of the amended Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979.

Under recurrent expenditure, n3.541 billion will be spent on personnel overhead costs while the consolidated revenue fund charges, which traditionally was regarded fully as a recurrent expenditure item, has now been split into two parts. The first part, made of provisions for the judiciary, pensions, gratuities, salaries and allowances of some government functionaries, which should be part of the consolidated revenue fund charges and interest on loans, all amounting to n1.931 billion, will now be debited to recurrent expenditure. The second part, which is on repayment of loan capital of n1.079 billion is, under the new arrangement, part of capital expenditure estimates. The capital expenditure is to be financed by a recurrent surplus of n1.299 billion, internal loan of n2.267 billion and external loan of n2.230 billion.

Speaking on sources of revenue for the government, Maj Gen Buhari said that these have over the years been very dependent on the oil sector which, he said, had provided over 60 percent of federally collectable revenue. He stressed that "until the current over-dependence of revenue base on proceeds from oil is reversed, the realisation of projected revenue estimates will continue to be unpredictable."

Maj Gen Buhari, however, stated that the process of reversing the "unacceptable" pattern of revenue has begun, adding that "for the 1985 revenue estimates, ministries, departments and parastatals will have their performance in revenue generation constantly monitored to ensure that they attain, and where possible improve on their revenue targets."

Highlights of the sectoral allocations include the largest allocation of n1.06 billion or 18 percent of total capital budget for agriculture, water resources and rural development, n880 million or 7.8 percent of total recurrent and capital estimates for education, science and technology and n200 million for execution of capital projects in the federal capital territory.

Government To Cooperate With OPEC Audit Committee *AB311156 Lagos NAN in English 1120 GMT 31 Dec 84*

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31, (NAN) — Nigeria will cooperate with the OPEC Audit Committee established at the just-concluded Geneva conference of the organisation to monitor oil production of its members, the minister of petroleum and energy, Prof Tam David-West, said in Lagos last night. According to the minister, Nigeria will not hesitate to release documents and necessary information on the production and sale of its crude oil for inspection by the committee.

Briefing newsmen on arrival at Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Prof David-West said that the establishment of the committee was an affirmation of Nigeria's stand that OPEC should take strong measures to ensure that member-countries adhered to their production quotas and the organisation's marketing structure. The minister said that although the meeting raised the price of heavy crude by 50 cents to bridge the gap between light and heavy crude, Nigeria regarded the price differential issue as an "open-ended question."

Prof David-West described the increase as an interim measure necessary for the survival of OPEC, adding that his delegation refused to endorse the document on the increase because "if we do that, it means that the price of our oil will go up and it is only the head of state who can take such a decision."

Asked about his greatest achievement this year as oil minister, Prof David-West said, "I have succeeded in making refreshing international friendships for Nigeria, especially within OPEC and among the world press."

"I am confident that Nigeria will benefit from the friendships now and in future" he added.

Anti-Marxist Armed Groups To Create Broad Front

PA311454 Paris AFP in Spanish 1253 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Maputo, 31 Dec (AFP) — Leaders of the armed groups opposing the governments of Mozambique, Angola, and Nicaragua met clandestinely in Portugal in an attempt to create a "broad front," the official daily *NOTICIAS* published in Maputo reported today.

According to Mario Ferro, and editorial writer for this newspaper, anti-Sandinist leader Eden Pastora has traveled 2 or 3 times to Portugal to meet with leaders of the Mozambique National Resistance movement, MNR, with the intention of forming an anti-Marxist front that could seek support from "international organizations." However, Pastora noted in order to make this possible, it would be advisable for the MNR to improve its "political image."

NOTICIAS added that representatives of the "armed bands" operating in Angola and Mozambique also met in Cascais, near Lisbon in July, to study the same project for a unified front.

The MRN and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) are described as "armed bands" and "bandits" in Maputo's official terminology.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos New Year Message to Nation

MB011100 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 1 Jan 85

[New Year message to the nation by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola — recorded; place and date not given]

[Text] The end of every year, be it of the Gregorian, fiscal, administrative, or other calendar, is always considered to be a period of review. During this period, every worker, peasant, fighter, student, intellectual, and so on, be it individually or collectively, can review his contribution during 1984 toward the solution to the problems and difficulties facing the Angolan nation at the level of his working center, military unit, education, institution, etc.

It would be a great victory for our people and party if we could say that all citizens carried out their duties and obligations without fail and had presented a highly positive review of their work. This ideal situation did not take place, but in every sector of national activity the working masses have given energetic, essential, and necessary responses for the consolidation of our independence and the continuation of our revolution. Many fulfilled their tasks, and evidently there were those who distinguished themselves in the defense of the fatherland, in the increase of production, and in the level of services rendered to the people. But there were also lazy and negligent elements, as well

as poor performers who invent excuses and justifications for all failures and poor performances. In many cases, it is true that there were difficulties and reasons why we were unable to carry out the approved working programs and economic plans. The country is still at war, and as such it has financial constraints. What is more, we have a shortage of technical cadres.

Our desire for the future is that this category of lazy and negligent citizens, as well as poor performers, will become unselfish and honest workers who, within the difficulties and limitations facing our country because of the acts of aggression by imperialism and because it is still a new nation, will be able to contribute with the rest of the citizens toward the rapid economic and social development of the Angolan people. We know that we still have a long and arduous way to go in order to overcome all the obstacles which impede our struggle for the improvement of the living conditions of our working people. All the same, we must continue to make efforts and constant sacrifice until we achieve our objectives.

The year just ended has been defined as a year of defense and production. During this period, we tried to channel our main energy and attention toward these two major fields that became the focal points of all our nation's activity. With the implementation of this watchword, we were able to maintain the initiative not only in the military field, where we inflicted heavy blows on the enemy, but also in defining areas for the development of the agricultural and stock-raising activity in various corners of the country, thus laying down the foundations for an economy which supports the war. However, there is still much to be done in order to consolidate the gains already achieved and reach a high level of development capable of enabling us to overcome the present situation. Accordingly, there is an urgent need to insist on an increase in responsibility at all levels. Every worker must account for his activity regularly to his boss, and it is the duty of the bosses to control the activity and work carried out by their subordinates, as well as the national property. Only in this way we can ensure the continuation of our revolutionary process, make real our socialist option, and defend state property, which is the property of the socialist society that we now building.

Comrades and compatriots: It is not my intention to review the activity carried out in 1984, nor is it my intention to present working prospects for 1985 on the eve of the national party conference, which is to be held 2 weeks from now. It will be the task of the party to make an exhaustive review of the work carried out from the extraordinary congress of 1980 until today in both the internal life of the party itself and the activity of the state, as well as mass and social organizations. The party conference will draw up the general guidelines in preparation for the second ordinary congress. It is not an exaggeration to say that the future of our revolution and the destiny of the independent Angolan nation depends in the final analysis on the action of the party. Accordingly, a discussion of the themes and problems of the nation that will be proposed by the party conference to the congress should not be limited only to party members. Every citizen must try to contribute by participating in an organized manner in discussions for the enrichment of the documents and taking part in cultural, sports, or other meetings in support of the congress.

The year 1985 will be the year of the second party congress. This is not only because this will be greatest event of the year, but also because enormous hopes rest on the congress for the revitalization of our party activity and the drawing up of fundamental decisions that will irreversibly deepen the socialist character of our democratic and popular revolution.

Comrades and compatriots, the year that has just ended was characterized at the international level by greater aggressiveness by imperialism. In addition to the intensification of new forms of aggression against progressive countries, the conventional and nuclear arms race was extended to space, thus increasing the danger to the life of all mankind.

In southern Africa, the racist South African regime, the principal ally of imperialism in the region, continued its aggressiveness by supporting the traitorous puppet armed gangsters with the aim of overthrowing the legitimate governments of the nations of the region. During 1984, our country tried to complement the effort mounted in the field of defense and production with diplomatic activities aimed at explaining to the world our positions and concerns regarding the situation in southern Africa, particularly the independence of Namibia and the presence of South African troops in the southern region of our territory. The world was able to observe that Angola was seriously engaged in the solution of the problems affecting our region, and that our proposals were aimed, above all, at removing a dangerous source of tension in the world and achieving a just and lasting peace which would not jeopardize our legitimate interests as an independent state.

Obviously, we cannot sacrifice the main interests of our country and people in favor of imperialism. For this reason we have been rejecting all artificial links established between the problem of Namibian independence and other internal issues of the People's Republic of Angola. The only link that we recognize, because it is logical and true, is the one that exists between the UNITA armed gangsters who carry out crimes against our people and the illegal presence of South Africa in southern Angola and Namibia. It has become more than evident that the operations and the very existence of the puppet groups continue to depend on all types of massive support granted to them by the Pretoria regime. We demand a stop to this support in that it constitutes a form of aggression against the Angolan people.

To the gesture of goodwill by our government, the South African regime continues to respond with dilatory maneuvers and intensification of its support for the puppet groups, with the objective of weakening our state and demanding political concessions at the negotiating table if they fail to destroy our revolution. The South African idea is to install in Angola a so-called government of national union which will include its UNITA puppets. We do not accept any so-called government of national union with the South African lackeys of UNITA, and this issue will not even be discussed at any negotiating table. We are independent. Our government is a national government and the MPLA-Labor Party, which guides us, is the party of unity of all the people, from Cabinda to Cunene. In the face of this enemy strategy, our

defense and security forces have been intensifying their fight and accumulating increasingly decisive victories, as was recently the case in Huambo city, where in an act of despair the enemy tried to carry out a spectacular attack on the industrial area for propaganda purposes.

During the new year, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola must continue with their efforts toward improving their structures and adapting to the subversive war imposed on us by South Africa through its UNITA lackeys. Our defense and security forces, in cooperation with the popular masses, are the symbol of our heroic resistance. Accordingly, they must continue with determination and bravery to neutralize the plans drawn up by racist South Africa and carried out by the UNITA puppet gangsters, thus ensuring the defense of the Angolan people and their gains. Our defense and security forces must ensure the defense of our main economic areas and give greater attention to the paramilitary integration of the workers. In this way we must make use of the great increase in the people's mobilization, which is the most certain guarantee that the victories so far will be consolidated and expanded with the massive support of our country's population.

The new enthusiasm with which our organized and party-guided people have been confronting the enemy throughout 1984 has made it possible for elements of the puppet groups sorry for their crimes to present themselves unconditionally to our authorities. These citizens finally understood that they were on the wrong side and decided to join all those who are carrying out the important task of national reconstruction. This very significant attitude reflects the difficulties facing the enemy, who can no longer feed the spirit of the various youngsters it forces into the bush and Namibia on lies and fantasies. It is our duty to continue to unmask the false propaganda of UNITA and demonstrate that we have been independent since 11 November 1975, that our government defends the people and national unity, and that the People's Republic of Angola will continue to be a single, indivisible country according to the wishes of the Angolan people who, under the leadership of the MPLA-Labor Party, will fight against maneuvers and all regional, tribal, and racial differences constantly used by the enemy to recruit the less enlightened for its criminal actions against the people.

While entering the year of the 10th anniversary of our independence, let us mobilize ourselves both on the military front and in the rearward in order to achieve victories over our enemies and progressively improve our living conditions.

I conclude by thanking all the Angolans who individually or collectively have extended to me their congratulations and wishes of long life on the occasion of my birthday [28 August], thus demonstrating the friendship and affection they accord me. I wish you all a happy and very prosperous new year.

1985, year of the second party congress.

Defense Minister Visits Huambo Province

*MB010712 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] Defense Minister Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, has returned to Luanda after a working visit to Huambo Province, which lasted several hours, to monitor refresher courses for our combatants who distinguished themselves most in the fight against the armed counterevolutionaries.

During the visit to Huambo, the colonel addressed the people of the province over the regional radio station and hailed the successes of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola in the struggle against the UNITA criminals.

The defense minister said that 1985 was going to be a decisive year for the Angolan people in the fight against the UNITA puppets, whose activities are based on massacre and robbery and who are continuing to perpetrate the most gory crimes against the Angolan people.

UNITA: Britons, 19 Other Captured After Plane Downed

*LD312018 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English
1814 GMT 31 Dec 84*

[Excerpt] Three Britons are believed to be among 22 people captured by UNITA guerrillas after an aircraft was shot down in Angola.

The British Embassy in Angola has contacted the authorities to try to find out who the hostages are and to ensure their safety.

The passengers were travelling in a C130 Hercules plane normally used as a military transporter. But the Foreign Office in London said tonight that it was not known whether the plane was a military aircraft.

It was thought it might have been a U.S. civil freight transporter.

The FO spokesman said the Embassy had received a report of an incident involving a plane in Canfufo [spelling as received], northern Angola.

The aircraft had been damaged and all the occupants had been captured.

In Washington, UNITA issued a statement claiming responsibility and saying three of those held were Britons.

BBC Radio named one of the captives as Mr Glen Dixon, of Leicestershire. He was said to work for an Italian trucking company in Angola.

The two other Britons are said to work for the state-owned diamond mining company.

The plane was said to have been attacked as it tried to land in Confufu. [spelling as received] The other occupants are said to be mainly Filipinos.

UNITA Takes Over Mining Town, Holds 20 Foreigners

*LD312118 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] In Angola, UNITA has again attacked the town of Cafunvo. The news arrived at our newsdesk in the early evening: Cafunvo was reported to have been taken over by UNITA, which in the process captured three British citizens and 17 Filipinos. UNITA forces are also reported to have captured the pilot and mechanic of a Hercules L-382-30 aircraft whose nationalities are not known.

The diamond-mining town of Cafunvo is a nerve center of the Angolan economy, since diamonds are the second largest source of revenue for Angola. This is the second time this year that Cafunvo has been captured by UNITA.

MOZAMBIQUE**Dos Santos Says MNR Still Receiving Arms**

*MB011343 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT
1 Jan 85*

[Text] The political leader of the Mozambican Province of Sofala, Marcelino dos Santos, has said the Mozambican National Resistance [MNR] terrorists are still being provided with arms by sea and air by certain imperialist countries.

In a speech in Beira marking the end of the year, Mr dos Santos noted major happenings in the province over the past year. He said most important was the offensive of the Armed Forces against the MNR terrorism which in Sofala Province has reestablished peace in some areas, the open transport by road and rail, and increased agricultural production.

Mr dos Santos said Mozambique continues to detect radio communication-transmitted orders to the terrorists. He added that the foreign press continues to print false propaganda given out by the Portuguese leaders of the terrorists. Besides the forces of imperialism in southern Africa, Mr dos Santos also pointed to elements in Portugal who speak against Mozambique and make threats against our country. Mozambicans, Mr dos Santos said, are taking note of this and of the nature of Portuguese democracy.

NOTICIAS Editor Reports Portuguese-MNR Links

*MB311214 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] Officers and sergeants serving in the Portuguese Army have been involved in the recruitment and training of mercenaries to fight against Mozambique, according to an article in today's NOTICIAS newspaper. The paper's editor, Mario Ferro, recently spent some time in Portugal investigating the activities of the Portuguese leaders of the Mozambican National Resistance [MNR] terrorists.

One of the people Mr Ferro met was a man who had served in the Portuguese colonial army in Mozambique and had been approached this year to come as a mercenary to fight Frelimo. He said the recruiter was a former commander in the colonial army who was recruiting former commandos and paratroops to be infiltrated into Mozambique from South Africa. This was after the signing of the Nkomati Accord. He claimed to have been offered more than \$1,700 a month paid in Portugal for carrying out sabotage and destabilization operations in southern Mozambique.

Mr Ferro was then introduced to a recruiter who agreed to talk after demanding guarantees that he would not get into trouble with the bosses. The recruiter said he had served with several other Portuguese mercenaries in the notorious South African Buffalo Battalion in Namibia in 1981. This year he said he was approached by the operations chief of the MNR terrorists, a man called Vasco Leitao, to recruit a group of mercenaries to be infiltrated into Mozambique from South Africa.

Mr Ferro then met one of these mercenaries, who called himself Chico Gatilho. Gatilho said a contact had been made through the extreme right-wing Portuguese party, Independent Movement for National Reconstruction. The leaders of this party are close friends of Portuguese businessmen who abandoned their property in Mozambique at the time of independence. Gatilho said the mercenaries' military skills were tested on a farm near Lisbon by officers and sergeants serving in the Portuguese Army. He said the mercenaries were then flown to Johannesburg via Madrid.

Mr Ferro also spoke to a Portuguese lawyer who had been linked to the MNR terrorists, but had broken away because he objected at atrocities they were committing in Mozambique. The lawyer said the MNR has friends in the political parties, the Armed Forces, and the state apparatus in Portugal. He also said that the Portuguese leaders of the terrorists, Evo Fernandes and Jorge Correia, were just functionaries of South Africa. The lawyer said Fernandes frequently visits Johannesburg and Pretoria and has also been to the United States, FRG, France, and Switzerland.

Mr Ferro said the Nicaraguan terrorist leader, Eden Pastora, has visited Portugal two or three times and during one of these visits he met MNR terrorist leaders. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the formation of a broad front to seek support from international organizations.

Mr Ferro said that in July this year representatives of the MNR terrorists and the South African-backed UNITA gang also met in Portugal to discuss the possibility of forming a broad front. He said an African diplomat accredited in Lisbon was present at this meeting.

DOMINGO Cites UK Paper on Support for 'Bandits'

MB301244 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] In today's edition, the newspaper *DOMINGO* publishes an article based on a report by a London newspaper, *THE OBSERVER*, which reveals new information on the international conspiracy against the People's Republic of Mozambique. According to this source, the armed bandits in our country are being provided with weapons supplied by Saudi Arabia and Oman and transported in planes to the Comoros with a stopover in Somalia. From the Comoros, the weapons are transferred to small planes which deliver them near armed bandit camps in Nampula Province.

DOMINGO cites the source as having pointed out that these small planes which leave from the Comoros have been using Malawian territory to refuel. The newspaper also notes that this air route for the transportation of weapons to the armed bandits in Mozambique was organized from Lisbon, and it cites the names of Portuguese citizens involved in the matter.

The network of conspiracy involves South Africa, Malawi, Somalia, and the Comoros, as well as Portugal, the FRG, France, Saudi Arabia, and Oman. The Israeli regime is mentioned as taking part in the conspiracy through the training of the bandits, including the transfer, through South Africa, of a group of bandits for training in Israel before the signing of the Nkomati Accord.

SOUTH AFRICA

Direct Air Link With Saudi Arabia Expected Soon

MB31754 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Our political news staff reports that an official announcement on a direct air link between South Africa and Saudi Arabia is expected soon. The first flight could leave from Cape Town for Saudi Arabia as soon as Sunday. A Johannesburg morning newspaper reported today that the flight would stopover at Johannesburg, at the Comoros, and Mogadishu in Somalia. It would be undertaken by the Comoros Airways in close cooperation with South Africa.

ANC President on Ties With Mozambique, Swaziland

LD311714 Kuwait KUNA in English 1619 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Harare, Dec 31 (KUNA) — Relations between the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and Mozambique and Swaziland, strained after the signing of Nkomati Accord with the white-led Pretoria Government last April, are "now returning to normal," the ANC President Oliver Tambo, has declared. In an interview with KUNA here Sunday the ANC leader said although Mozambique cannot now support the ANC in certain specific forms, her overall support to the liberation struggle was even stronger.

"They cannot support us in some ways, but their overall support for our struggle is very much. Given the brutality of the Pretoria regime, the support is even stronger now than it was before Nkomati," said Tambo, whose guerillas are waging a bush-war to overthrow the white minority government in South Africa.

Mozambique and South Africa signed the much publicised Nkomati Accord which barred each state from allowing opponents to attack the other country from its territory.

Tambo pointed out though the accord was supposed to stop the ANC from attacking South Africa and the Mozambican resistance movement from attacking Mozambique, it was directed against the ANC, and not so much against rebel Mozambican National Resistance (MNR). The ANC leader observed the eight months after the signing of the accord, the MNR was still in Mozambique, which showed that in formulating the agreement, Pretoria did not intend to curtail the activities of the MNR.

The immediate result of the March accord should have been the cessation of violence by the Mozambican national resistance rebels. But since the conclusion of the agreement, South Africa had merely stopped what Jose Cabaco, Mozambican information minister, said was "official" intervention and violation of airspace, coastal and territorial waters, ceasing communication from rebels operating in Mozambique, and broadcasting propaganda from South Africa.

Though the official or open participation of South Africa has been stopped, it has not dismantled the groups that formerly wreaked havoc in the [word indistinct].

Cabaco also said some forces inside South Africa continued to give support to the rebels but he would not identify the forces.

SWAZILAND

Prince Dumisa Comments on 'Liberation' of Country
MB011836 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT
1 Jan 85

[From "Focus on Africa" Program]

[Text] Swaziland starts the new year with the launching here in England of a new Swaziland Liberation Movement. It follows more than a year of political turmoil since the death of King Sobhuza in 1983. There have been squabbles in the royal family and the government. The first Queen Regent Dzeliwe was sacked and replaced. There was a scandal over an alleged fraud involving the customs union with neighboring South Africa and there are fears that the succession of the crown prince, Makhosetive, might not follow a smooth course. But one member of the royal family who has found himself exiled here in London and who has launched the liberation movement is Prince Dumisa Dlamini. He claims that Swaziland has been taken over by a gang of four led by another prince, Mfanisibili. Julian Marshal asked Prince Dumisa what were the aims of his liberation movement.

[Begin recording] [Dumisa] The aims and the objectives of the liberation is to put the country in its proper course, to overthrow the gang of four from the unconstitutional positions which they hold, to give the people of Swaziland a right of a secret ballot to elect a parliament of their choice and a government of their choice, thus ensuring that the monarchy remains intact and without blemish.

[Marshal] Who exactly are this gang of four?

[Dumisa] The gang of four consists of Prince Mfanisibili, Mr George Msibi, Robert Mabila, who is their secretary, and Mr Patel, who is their legal adviser.

[Marshal] And what exactly are you accusing the gang of four of having done?

[Dumisa] They have hijacked the political system in the country. They have siphoned funds from the customs union, some 6.5 million pounds so far, and it is now reported it is higher. The company, which was responsible for this siphoning of these funds, was finally found to be owned by Prince Mfanisibili as director and Mr Patel.

[Marshal] Are you saying that this gang of four are essentially ruling Swaziland at the moment?

[Dumisa] Yes. They have made the queen regent completely isolated and redundant. They rule the country. They have taken over the civil service. They have dismissed the Army commander. They have dismissed the chief commissioner of police. They have now detained former Minister of Finance Dr S.S. Nxumalo for having exposed this mammoth scandal. Simon Nxumalo is presently detained and is sick in detention with pneumonia and a number of other diseases. It is not known if the man will survive.

[Marshal] But how have they been able to gain that amount of power? After all, Swaziland has a prime minister, Prince Bhhekimpi. They have an administrative structure?

[Dumisa] Well, as you know, Swaziland had a strong king, Sobhuza, who had centralized power and who ruled the country quite wisely because of his age and experience, and after his departure, it became necessary to establish a sort of committee to advise the queen regent. That is how they came to hijack the country. The queen regent questioned their credibility and their integrity, particularly Prince Mfanisibili and George Msibi — Queen Regent Dzeliwe. And when she threatened to fire them, they fired her instead, which has never been done in Swaziland. A queen is queen for life as you know even in this country. They then appointed themselves as supreme councillors of state. They reinstated [as heard] the present queen regent, who is not supposed to be until her son becomes king. The queen regent is a transitional head of state who advises the royal family, who is the head of state. They dismissed her unconstitutionally, and this is what the nation is very much worried about and not satisfied at all, particularly with the corrupt tendencies of the gang of four.

[Marshal] How do you intend to go about achieving your aims?

[Dumisa] We intend to use nonviolent means because the gang of four is very skunk [as heard] in the politics of the country. Nobody wants them. We don't want to use violence. If we can, we want to appeal to the people to rally together in order to put things right.

[Marshal] How would you reply to those critics, Prince Dumisa, who might say that all we are saying here is simply a squabble within the Swazi royal family and that you are basically annoyed because you have been excluded from the powermaking process?

[Dumisa] Not at all. The truth of the matter is my family is in fact the constitutional...has the constitutional right to see to the smooth transfer of power. Prince Mfanasibili's family is not, and, therefore, I have got the right because I am from the King Sobhuza's inner circle, the family which is actually ruling now. So, I have got the right not only as leader politically in the country who has played a role in the past but also as the right prince within the royal family to put things right. Now, it is not only the squabble within the royal family. It is the whole nation that is demoralized, the chiefs, the indvunas [assistants to the chiefs] who have been expelled unconstitutionally, the civil service who have been demoralized, everybody. It is not just me and the royal family. In fact, it is the nation that is involved here.

ANC Delegate Arrives To Pay Condolences on Killing

*MB311007 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND
in English 31 Dec 84 p 16*

[Text] The African National Congress has sent a delegate to the country to pay condolences following the brutal killing of Superintendent Petros Shiba who was gunned down early this month.

Speaking to our reporter, the man said he arrived in the country last Thursday.

"I am here to see the authorities of the country and pay the organisation's condolences for the brutal killing of Superintendent Shiba," he said.

ZAMBIA

Bishop Tutu Addresses Churchmen on Change in RSA

*MB301200 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT
30 Dec 84*

[Text] Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu of Johannesburg says he regards His Excellency President Kaunda as a great African statesman of international recognition, and that he is happy to meet him now. Addressing Anglican church leaders at the residence of Bishop (Steven Mumba) in Lusaka last night, Bishop Tutu said he was pleased that he was meeting the president before taking up his new post as the first black bishop of Johannesburg. He said he would not live at the official residence of the bishop of Johannesburg, which was in an area exclusively for whites, because doing so might mean having honorary white privileges, something which he is against in principle.

The bishop, who is accompanied by his wife, Leah Tutu, said he might use the residence for gatherings and receptions, to afford the people of Soweto a chance of being in an area which was rightfully theirs. Bishop Tutu also emphasized that change will only come about through two ways in South Africa, either through the armed struggle or a dialogue between the white regime and authentic nationalist leaders of South Africa. He spoke out against the so-called constitutional changes in South Africa that have seen Coloreds and Indians acquiring (?inferior) voice in a tricameral Parliament that has left out the black majority, making up 73 percent of the population.

Bishop Tutu, who met some leaders of the ANC of South Africa in Lusaka yesterday, praised Dr Kaunda for his untiring efforts aimed at achieving freedom in Southern Africa.

The church leaders he addressed at Bishop (Mumba's) house in Lusaka included the dean of Lusaka, Rev (John) Clyburg, Zambia Broadcasting Services's acting director, Rev Roger Ngombe, and the chairman of the Christian Council of Zambia, Mr (Philip) Bishop).

Bishop Tutu went to Kasaba Bay today, where he is meeting President Kaunda, who invited him over to Zambia. The bishop leaves Zambia for South Africa tomorrow, the date on which his travel document expires.

On Need for RSA Solution

*MB310610 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT
31 Dec 84*

[Text] Visiting Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa has reiterated the need for a quick and amicable solution to the South African problem in order to avert a bloodbath. Bishop Tutu said there existed scope for peaceful negotiations in South Africa, although time was quickly running out for solving the political situation peacefully.

Speaking on the television program "Sunday Interview" last night, the bishop emphasized that he would never carry firearms in trying to solve the situation in his country, but that he would remain a prisoner of hope for a peaceful solution to the issues in South Africa. He pointed out that the path of peaceful negotiations with the oppressor was aimed at persuading the South African Government to sit down with the authentic leaders of the oppressed peoples in South Africa.

On his Nobel Peace Prize, Bishop Tutu said the award was due to the efforts of all the people committed to the struggle for peace and justice in South Africa. He particularly paid tribute to those who were in jail or in exile in various states, including Zambia, who had assisted the people of South Africa to obtain the honor of the prize.

The bishop said he was hopeful for a peaceful society in South Africa, where all people would live together amicably. The visiting critic of apartheid and 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner, the South African Anglican bishop of Johannesburg, Desmond Tutu, returns to South Africa today when his travel document expires. Bishop Tutu has been in Zambia for talks with President Kaunda, who invited him to come over to Zambia. Bishop Tutu has warned of violence and bloodshed in South Africa, unless the Pretoria regime rids itself of apartheid.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Delivers New Year Message to Nation

MB011040 Harare Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT
31 Dec 84

[New Year address to the nation by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe — live]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, comrades and friends, good evening. I am addressing you tonight in the same manner and with the same spirit as I have always done at the end of each year. Once again, I shall endeavor to give you as brief a survey as possible of the outstanding events of the year, whether these were positive or negative, as there are some [words indistinct] to evaluate our performance as a government and as a nation. Finally, I would like to [words indistinct] in terms of our plan [words indistinct]. You will remember that we began the year with prospects of an economic recovery, including loss of (?property). We had already had 2 successive years of a bad drought which was persisting into the third year, in an economic [word indistinct] had become severe. The stark facts before us were our dwindling food reserves and a general decline in the volume of crops (?produced), a lowering of our industrial production a decline in our production [words indistinct] in reduced consumer spending. However, to give us little comfort of sorts, was the fact that the volume of our mineral assets was beginning to stabilize, our [word indistinct] value was steadily increasing, boosted in the moment by the depreciation of our dollar against the U.S. dollar, and by a slight recovery in the world market.

But what is the plan [words indistinct] was not enough to remedy our adverse balance of payments. [passage indistinct] Revenue to our exchequer naturally fell below our calculations as contained in our 1983-84 budget. Nevertheless, planned expenditure in such crucial areas as education, received supplementary (?subsidies) [word indistinct] provided for in our supplementary budget of January 1984.

As a confident government and confident nation we entirely refuse to allow these adverse circumstances to upset the perspective of our policies. Indeed the situation in agriculture did not turn out to be as crucial [words indistinct] as we thought the drought would make it. Contrary to expectations, our maize yield was much higher, and some 920,000 tons of maize have [words indistinct] by the Grain Marketing Board, while a record of 250,000 tons of cotton went to the Cotton Marketing Board, and another record of some 200 million kilograms of tobacco were stored by the Tobacco Board. Other crops like coffee, sugar,

soybeans, and tea, have also registered remarkable improved yields. We feel thus, that although we were forced by circumstances to buy supplementary maize in order to feed our nation, we have nevertheless maintained our own and in fact [words indistinct] done many times better than other countries that which were confronted by the same adverse circumstances. The year of yellow maize, (?kuenya), as many people call it, is now behind us. May I thank all those organizations whose relief programs rescued many of our people from hardships. We have [words indistinct] to a major cultivation of increased [words indistinct]. Everywhere, as I look around, the fields are very green, the crops are wonderfully good, and I hope the rain will continue to be good.

We also feel delighted that we have year after year continued (?to rely) on our social services. Our education system has been developing by leaps and bounds. In 1979 the total school enrollment was [words indistinct], 819,128 children were in primary schools, and 73,540 were in secondary schools. In 1984, we have a total of 2,560,796 students in schools, of which 2,143,346 were in the primary sector, and 417,450 in secondary schools. In 1979 there were 3,083 students in teacher training, but in 1984 the number had nearly trebled to (?8,980). In 1979, the enrollment in technical colleges was (?3,663), but in 1984 the number had reached (?10,073). In our agricultural colleges there were in 1978 only 171 students, as against 838 in 1984. The University of Zimbabwe had only (?1,481) students enrolled in classes there in 1979, but 1984 the number had risen to (?4,080). These trends will continue to be sustained in future at the same time as we try to maintain high standards within the system.

We believe as the party and government that the education of our citizens is not only a moral obligation we owe them, but also the best way of developing these useful skills without which the prospect of socio-economic [words indistinct].

We have been pleased to observe as the year unfolds some signs of economic recovery [words indistinct]. Our main worry is in the manufacturing sector, where the greatest closure of enterprises or (?restrictions) have occurred because of reduced earnings arising partly from contracting consumer demands in the worker classes and partly the failure to sustain production without essential import inputs that depend on foreign currency. But there has also been discernable (?sensitivity) on the part of some entrepreneurs in the manufacturing sector which has gone through the most trying [word indistinct] over the last 3 or 4 years.

I trust that the operators of that sector will readjust their attitudes, join the rest of us as [word indistinct] and committed citizens and ensure the continuance of their enterprises, especially in view of the efforts [words indistinct] on our economy. Government has also the hope that the regional market opportunities created by our membership of the Southern African Development Conference and the Preferential Trade Area will be taken maximum advantage of by as many persons as there possibly [word indistinct]. We are glad therefore that our membership of these organizations has enhanced our export opportunities as indeed has our membership of ACP [African, Caribbean and Pacific]-EEC organization. In the latter case, we have been party to the negotiations of a third ACP-EEC agreement which

was recently signed in Lome. That contains [word indistinct] of good market proposals, the ones signed by the ACP nations as [word indistinct] amongst others, sugar, coffee, tea, [word indistinct] beans, [word indistinct]. It also has provisions relating to industrial, agricultural, financial, and technical cooperation, which we can take full advantage of in securing aid for the promotion and expansion of all our [word indistinct]. We do not take as much advantage of these provisions as we should over the last (?months).

I am sure you all feel as heartened as I am that in spite of our difficult balance of payments position, our terms of trade contribute [word indistinct]. Over the whole of 1984, however, we had to rely on short-term borrowing from foreign banks and financial institutions to maintain our balance of payments position and with it our creditworthiness as a nation. We have not defaulted on our debts, nor have we sought any rescheduling of any. Though we have had to resort to such unpalatable measures as the suspension of a (?general dividends fee), the acquisition by the state of external security, and the reduction in valuable foreign currency allowances, but as the minister of finance, economic planning, and development has assured us, most of these are only temporary measures which shall certainly be reversed as soon as the economic situation improves and all the plans are there [words indistinct].

The end of the fifth year of our independence merely coincides with the end of our 3-year transitional national development plan, whose duration lasts until June next year. Our performance under the 3-year plan in the various spheres of our public and private sectors is currently being evaluated and parameters for the next plan are being worked out. It will naturally be necessary to evolve a second plan on the basis of what has been achieved, at least in part a continuation of the course. Our hope is that it will be more competent and more purposeful in policy implementation, and perhaps freer from the hazard of allowing modifications [words indistinct]. In terms of policy direction it will now have to get its cue from the policy objectives enunciated by the Second People's Congress of ZANU, which brings me to the political aspect of the year 1984.

The year 1984 saw a tremendous qualitative and quantitative development of our ruling party, ZANU. We see the next several years of structural organizational work culminating, firstly, in the holding of the Women's League national conference in March; secondly, in the holding of the Youth League national conference in May; and, lastly, in the convening of the Second Peoples Congress held from 8 to 12 August.

This historic congress passed important people's resolutions on a number of crucial aspects of our socioeconomic development, such as the need for expanded and consolidated social services, promotion of industries, science and technology, mining, trade and commerce, agriculture and land reform, the development of natural resources, water development, manpower development, the development of transport and communications, international relations and solidarity, housing, social welfare, local government, information, women and youth development, community development in general, and several other matters, all of which fall in the sphere of government and must be encompassed by any new development plan.

One of the most important resolutions passed was that adopting scientific socialism as the ideological modality through which transformation in the various fields just mentioned will be carried out. At the same time, the party congress asserted the authority of the party over government. Accordingly, the newly elected Central Committee of the party and its politburo will ensure that in future the policies enunciated by congress will be adhered to by government.

Our congress further called upon the government to take such effective measures as would eliminate the criminal acts of banditry being committed by the dissidents in Matabeleland. As we all know, these dissidents are not only declared but also loyal members of ZAPU, in whose name they have been perpetrating their acts of violence. We shall certainly continue to intensify our security operations in the interests of the people and generally in the interests of securing the total peace of our country. Those who hope that the dissidents will succeed in achieving by violence and lawless means the political power they cannot achieve through the constitutional means of an election ballot are in for a rude shock. We can never ever allow the people's power to be usurped by those whom the people have completely rejected, and who in any event have turned into murderers, [word indistinct] arsonists, robbers, and downright criminal bandits. It is the duty of all of us who are peace-loving to ensure that these lawless gangsters are tried.

Comrades and friends, we must [word indistinct] our collective performance over the year and also proceed to assess our individual performance. In other words, we must examine how the individual worker or peasant has gone about his duties over the year. I am glad to say that by and large our reports speak of good work and improved discipline on the part of the worker. Let that spirit continue. We hear, however, of some cases of indiscipline, drunkenness, absenteeism, and insubordination, even though these might be more the exception than the rule. We cannot, both as the ruling party or as a government, condone this kind of behavior. It is completely incompatible with our socialist philosophy, which demands of every man his best performance. Another evil of a criminal nature is the proneness of some workers in responsible positions to fraud, forgery, theft, and corruption. We cannot spare any of you who offend against the people of Zimbabwe in any of these dishonest ways. [word indistinct] is what such a [word indistinct] deserves.

Over the years we have admired our peasants battling hard to overcome the dire circumstances in [word indistinct]. We congratulate them on their programs of self-reliance and on participating in those communal programs promoted by the state in order to create new amenities such as pipe-borne water, clinics, roads and bridges in their areas. We also congratulate them upon their wonderful performance in the production of unexpected yields of maize and cotton in the face of the most severe drought as well as on the work they have undertaken this season to expand the cultivation of various food and cash crops. May they keep up the good work.

Our commercial farmers have over the years shown their wonderful [word indistinct] and [word indistinct] commitment to Zimbabwe. Their yields of tobacco, maize, cotton, soya beans, and

other crops were as already observed records in very [words indistinct]. We say congratulations to them and urge them to keep up the good work.

Comrades and friends, 1984 is the fifth year of our independence, and naturally it closes the period of the life of our first parliament. Accordingly, the new year which is here tomorrow will also be the year of our second general election, which should usher in a new government and a new parliament to begin another 5-year term. I am sure you will agree with me that the last 5 years have for our nation been [words indistinct] in many respects. For the first time the majority of our people exercise their democratic right to vote under a democratic constitution which recognizes the people's power. For the first time my party, ZANU, was elected to power and started learning, also for the first time, how to govern. For the first time also we had a government preaching and practicing the policy of national reconciliation in order to unite all the people of Zimbabwe regardless of race, color, or [word indistinct]. Again, for the first time, we had a government pursuing people-oriented programs of development within the framework of the 3-year transitional national development plan. Yes, for the first time in the country we had a bumper maize harvest of 2.2 million tons in the 1980-81 season.

In the sphere of international relations, our country again for the first time became a member of certain international organizations, including the United Nations, and had bilateral relations with friendly states and organizations in the various spheres of diplomatic, political, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. Within the sphere of our political activity, my party, ZANU, was for the first time since 1964 able to hold another congress, the second people's congress, at which for the first it passed the vital resolutions for [word indistinct], including one adopting an ideology of scientific socialism and [words indistinct] the 1-party state. These and many other numerous achievements have served to give our independence meaning, and they mark only a beginning and a humble beginning of our national (?destiny). They provide us with nothing more than a base, which still needs to be firmly rooted and consolidated. We thus enter 1985 determined:

1. That the people's power be more firmly rooted and consolidated;
2. That the socialist base we have laid be further broadened and deepened;
3. That the new economic plan to consolidate our economic gains of the last 5 years be formulated in accordance with the decisions of our second congress;
4. That, also in accordance with the decisions of the second congress, the unity of the masses of Zimbabwe be made stronger under the umbrella of ZANU and solid steps be taken for the creation of a 1-party state;
5. That the role of the worker be further transformed in order to enhance [words indistinct] participation in the development of the country's economy;

6. That present resettlement programs be accelerated and peasant agriculture be assisted in achieving a definite organizational and [word indistinct] transformation through purposeful rural development programs;

7. That the private sector be more purposefully coordinated and geared to achieving goals and (?targets) defined by the state;

8. That our education system and manpower training and development programs be further reappraised in the light of our socioeconomic needs so they can be firmly consolidated as effective instruments for socioeconomic transformation;

9. That our external relations continue to develop and deepen their roots in areas of the world that yield maximum benefits to Zimbabwe in economic, scientific, technical, and cultural spheres; and

10. That the security of our nation and the defense of its independence continue to be consolidated through the development of [words indistinct] of our security forces and their deployment, effective deployment, in areas where security is under threat.

It is imperative, therefore, that in 1985 we work assiduously to consolidate all our national achievements and endeavors of the 5 previous years.

Accordingly, I have joy in inviting you to join me in declaring 1985 as the year of our national consolidation. Forward with the year of our national consolidation. Happy New Year. Goodnight.

Mugabe: Parliament To Be Dissolved, Elections Held
MB311146 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT
 31 Dec 84

[Text] The Parliament of Zimbabwe will be dissolved next month to pave the way for the country's second general election. The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, spoke of this development last night on a televised program "The Nation." He said Parliament will reconvene on 15 January and, added, at the end of the existing deliberations will then be dissolved. At that time, Comrade Mugabe said his ruling party, ZANU-PF, will then meet to discuss the selection of candidates for the general elections which he said would take place either at the end of February or some time in March.

Asked to say how his party would choose its candidates, Comrade Mugabe, who is also ZANU-PF's first secretary and president, said this should be a joint exercise between the party's Central Committee and all the provinces. He, however, said it is premature for party supporters to start presenting themselves as candidates.

Comrade Mugabe also referred to ZANU-PF's support in Matabeleland and said the position is now favorable. He, however, said there are areas which are still difficult, particularly Matabeleland North. In Comrade Mugabe's view, the situation is better in Matabeleland South.

Cuban Ambassador Notes Closer Ties With Country*MB311446 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT**31 Dec 84*

[Text] The Cuban ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade Alfonso Fraga Perez, has spoken of growing relations between his country and Zimbabwe. He told a news conference in Harare today that Zimbabwe and Cuba may sign a trade and economic accord next year. This will be in addition to other agreements which the two countries have already signed. Comrade Fraga, who was speaking as head of his country's 26th anniversary marking the start of its revolution, which is being observed tomorrow. [sentence as heard] Comrade Fraga told the news conference that about 140 Zimbabweans are training in Cuba in different disciplines. He described relations between Cuba and Zimbabwe as being fruitful, noting that there is still room for closer ties.